

Project Update: October 2016

Our main task in this research study is to make an evaluation of four protected areas and make a choice for the most adequate sites for the release of Barbary deer.

A team of three persons (including a car driver) participated to the execution of the field work. We travelled by a car in the north of Tunisia in order to achieve the main objectives of our research study. Our main practical task was the field prospection of four protected areas: Jebel Chitana-Cap N egro NP (10122 ha); Oued Zeen NP (6700 ha); Bent Ahmed (1541 ha); and Jebel El Ghorra (2539 ha).

We have, with the collaboration of foresters and a topographic map, focused our efforts on some areas of the listed protected zones and proceeded, according to some evaluation criteria (access, topography, presence of roads), to a selection of the two most adequate release sites. In a second step, we are refining our study and proceeding to an evaluation of those selected release sites (vegetation, seasonal variation of food supplements, water presence). As a team leader, I am coordinating the project at the scientific and logistic level. I settled the methodology of work and participate in the fieldwork. I am also responsible for data analysis and reporting.

Our plan was shifted and we have started the field work 2 months after the presumed date. Hopefully everything worked fast and well after the start of the project and we still have one field excursion for the two selected areas: (Oued Zeen NP (6700 ha) and Bent Ahmed protected area (1541 ha) planned to be done during December 2016.

I will be able to finish my research project by the end of 2016.

