

Mediterranean water monitoring working
group meeting

Madrid, Spain November, 10th 2010

Water Quality monitoring in Tunisia

Yousra BEN SALAH

Ministry of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fishery

Water Resources General Direction

SUMMARY

- **Introduction**
- **Presentation of the existing water quality monitoring networks**
- **The main results of the networks optimization study**
- **The networks exploitation and Conclusion**

water management

Water management in Tunisia is based in the first place on the monitoring of the water resources evolution thanks to many networks:

- **Surface water networks (rainfall, hydrometric/ quality)**
- **Groundwater water networks (piezometric, quality)**

The water quality monitoring networks

In Tunisia, there are 3 main water quality monitoring networks:

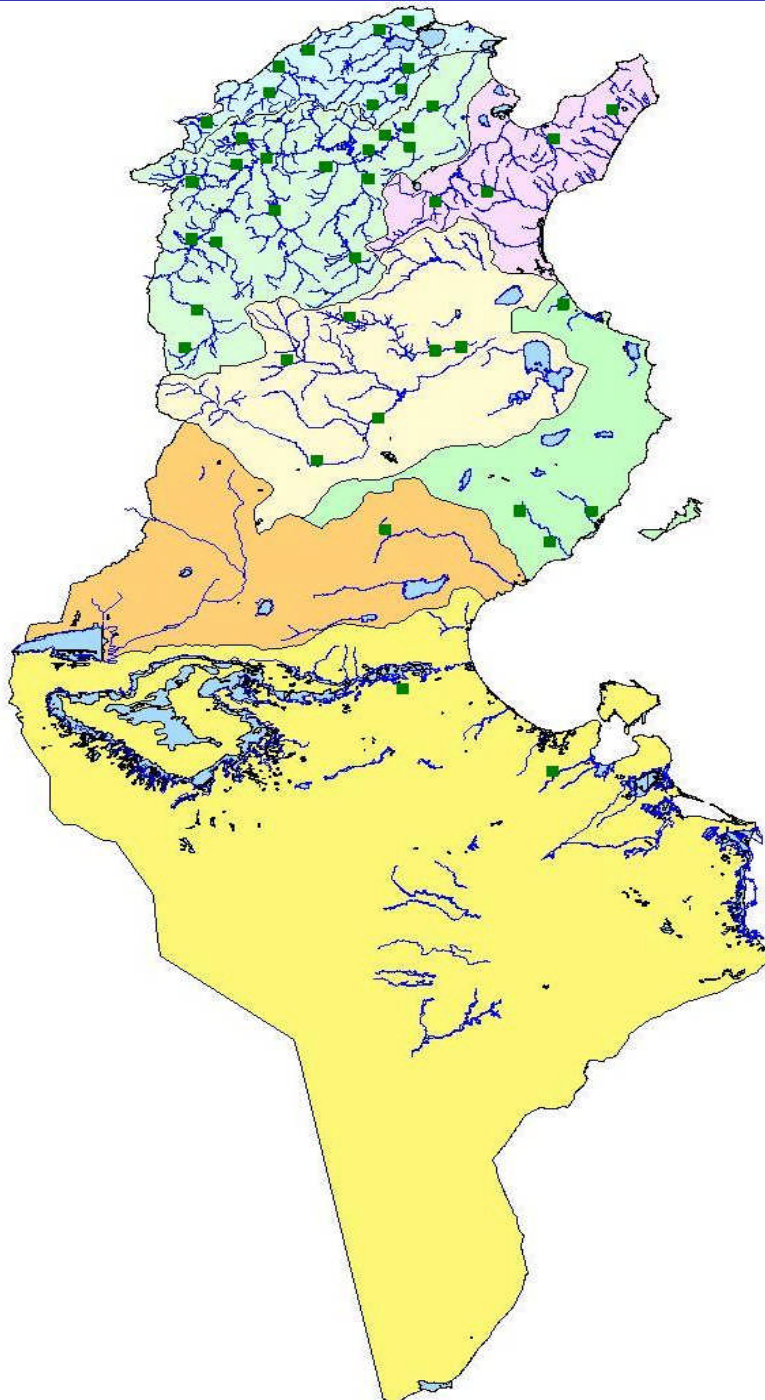
- ❖ The surface water quality network
- ❖ The groundwater quality network
- ❖ The Water Pollution sources network

Surface water quality monitoring

The network is composed by about **60 main hydrometric stations** and **170 secondary monitoring points** at which usually a number of water quality measurements are performed such as:

- ✓ Water conductivity
- ✓ Determination of water major ions
- ✓ Determination of water turbidity

The collected data are published by the Water Resources General Direction in an annual report called « **Annuaire hydrologique de la Tunisie** »



the groundwater quality network

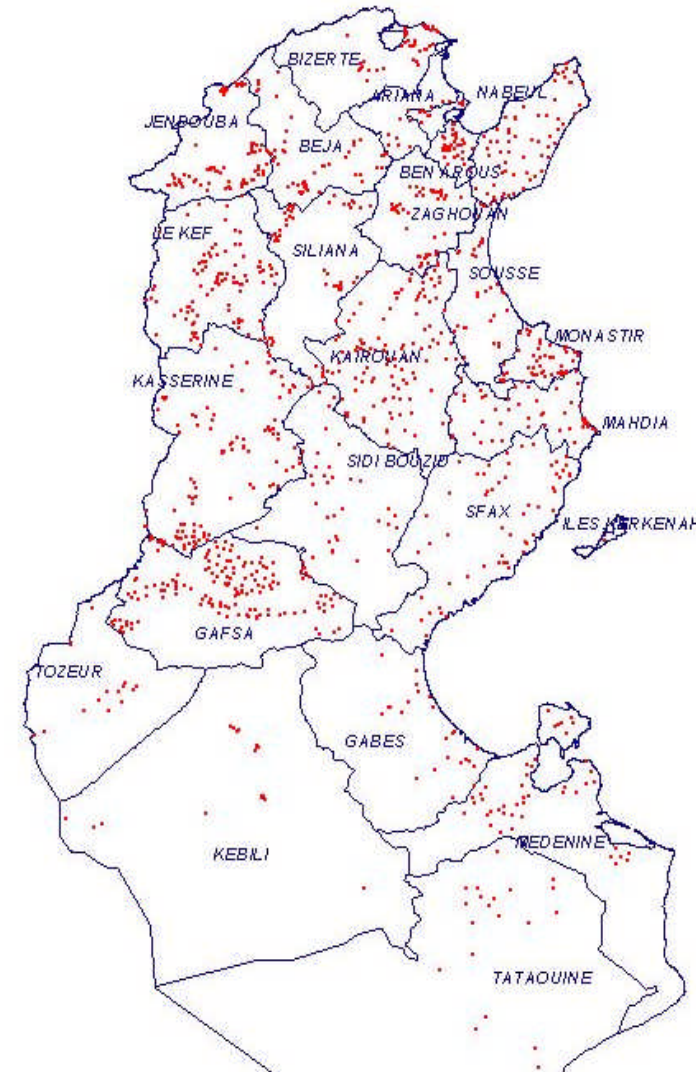
- **The groundwater network was set up in 1998:**
 - **1200 monitoring boreholes (shallow and deep wells)**
 - **Monitoring of TDS**
 - **Monitoring of nitrates**
- **Some analysis exist since many years**
- **Since 1993, data bank relative to the resultats of the chemical analysis carried out at the laboratory of the Water Resources General Direction was set up (monitoring of the major chemical elements and measuring out of the Nitrate element).**

Groundwater quality network

Region	Shallow aquifers	Deep aquifers	Total
North	325	159	484
Centre	196	212	408
South	208	100	308
Total	521	359	1200

**1200 monitoring boreholes for groundwater quality :
(TDS and nitrate)**

Répartition régionale du réseau de suivi de la qualité des eaux souterraines



Groundwater quality analysis procedure

- One to two analysis per year regarding TDS and the nitrate
- The water samples are abstracted from the boreholes in the field and the analysis are carried out at the Water Resources General Direction laboratory.
- The collected data are published by the Water Resources General Direction in an annual report called « **Annuaire de la qualité des eaux souterraines en Tunisie** »

Groundwater quality monitoring objectif

- Evaluation of the aquifers salinization under the impact of the intensive abstraction
- Evaluation of the aquifers contamination with the nitrates under the impact of the massive utilization of fertilizers
- Evaluation of the groundwater resources in terms of « quantity with a certain quality » in order to define the water resources use (drinking water, irrigation...)



Water Pollution sources monitoring network

The setting up of a water pollution sources monitoring network is in progress (Ministry of Environment)

It is the result of a study carried out by the Ministry of environment. The tasks, already achieved, have allowed to:

- ✓ Identify and characterize all potential water pollution sources in Tunisia
- ✓ Set up a data base about these potential water pollution sources: the data base is called « spore » and it will contribute to feed **the National Information System about WATER in Tunisia called (SINEAU)** which is « une première » in the Mediterranean region.

The importance of the water monitoring networks in Tunisia

A special care is given to our water monitoring networks, in fact, a pioneer study to optimize the water monitoring networks was carried out recently in order to make these networks :

- Easily manageable
- More representative
- Better responding to the water resources dynamic:
 - New conditions of abstraction (getting higher and higher)
 - developpement of new artificial recharge projects
 - Increase in the number of the hydraulic structures (new conditions of recharge)

The results of the networks optimization study

THE STUDY MAIN RESULTS REGARDING WATER QUALITY

- The set up of a data bank for water quality monitoring
- Readjustement of the existing networks:
 - 1- Elimination of unreliable monitoring boreholes
 - 2- Adding of new monitoring boreholes
- The recommendation of monitoring in some cases other water quality parameters besides the TDS and the nitrate such as the chlorine and the bromine

Data bank

	Piezometric network	Groundwater quality network
Number of boreholes	3900	1200
Number of records	140 000	14 000

Groundwater quality monitoring record

Identification

Geographical position

Monitored aquifer

Technical data about the borehole

Reference Chemical analysis

Borehole environment

Groundwater quality monitoring

Groundwater quality trend

Région: NORD EST	Evaluation du réseau de suivi Qualité de l'eau FICHE DE POINT D'OBSERVATION	Numéro I: NA_100820039
Gouvernorat: NABEUL		Num IRH:
Délégation: EL HAOUARIA		Type: Puits

Identification

Designation/Nom: **Bir Rouissi**

Lieu-Dit:

Localisation géographique

<i>Coordonnées - Grades décimaux</i>		<i>Coordonnées - UTM</i>	
Longitude :	9,5363 gr	X =	670804,6
Latitude :	41,134 gr	Y =	4098523

Aquifère suivi

Objectif suivi :

Nappe phréatique Nom : **Plaine d'El Haouaria**
Code: **43110**

Données techniques sur le point d'observation

Profondeur: m
Débit exploitation: l/s Usage des eaux:
Année réalisation forage :
Profondeur forée: m Prof. crép. supérieure: m
Profondeur tubée: m Prof. crép. inférieure: m

Analyse chimique de référence

Date prélèvement:

<i>Analyse standard</i>		<i>Autres éléments mesurés</i>	
Ca++:	mg/l HCO3--:	mg/l	mg/l
Mg++:	mg/l Cl-:	mg/l	mg/l
Na+:	mg/l SO4--:	mg/l	mg/l
K+:	mg/l NO3-:	mg/l	mg/l

Observations:

Environnement du point d'observation

Environnement hydraulique: Oued
Environnement agricole:
Sites potentiels pollution:
Habitat proche : Non

Distance: 0,5 Km Zone exutoire: Oui
Nature Exutoire: Distance: 1,0 Km
Distance : Km Captage AEP: Distance : Km

Suivi des paramètres de qualité de l'eau

Fréquence mesures . :
Lacunes: Non
Début suivi : 1998 RS = **4254** mg/l NO3 = **55,8** mg/l
Dernière mesure enr.: 2004 RS = **5106** mg/l NO3 = **83** mg/l

Caractéristiques historiques Qualité de l'eau

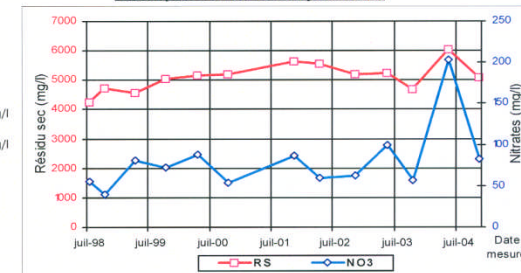
Variation RS depuis début suivi = **852** mg/l
Tendance interannuelle RS: **Croissante**
Variation NO3 depuis début suivi = **26,7** mg/l
Tendance interannuelle NO3: **Croissante**



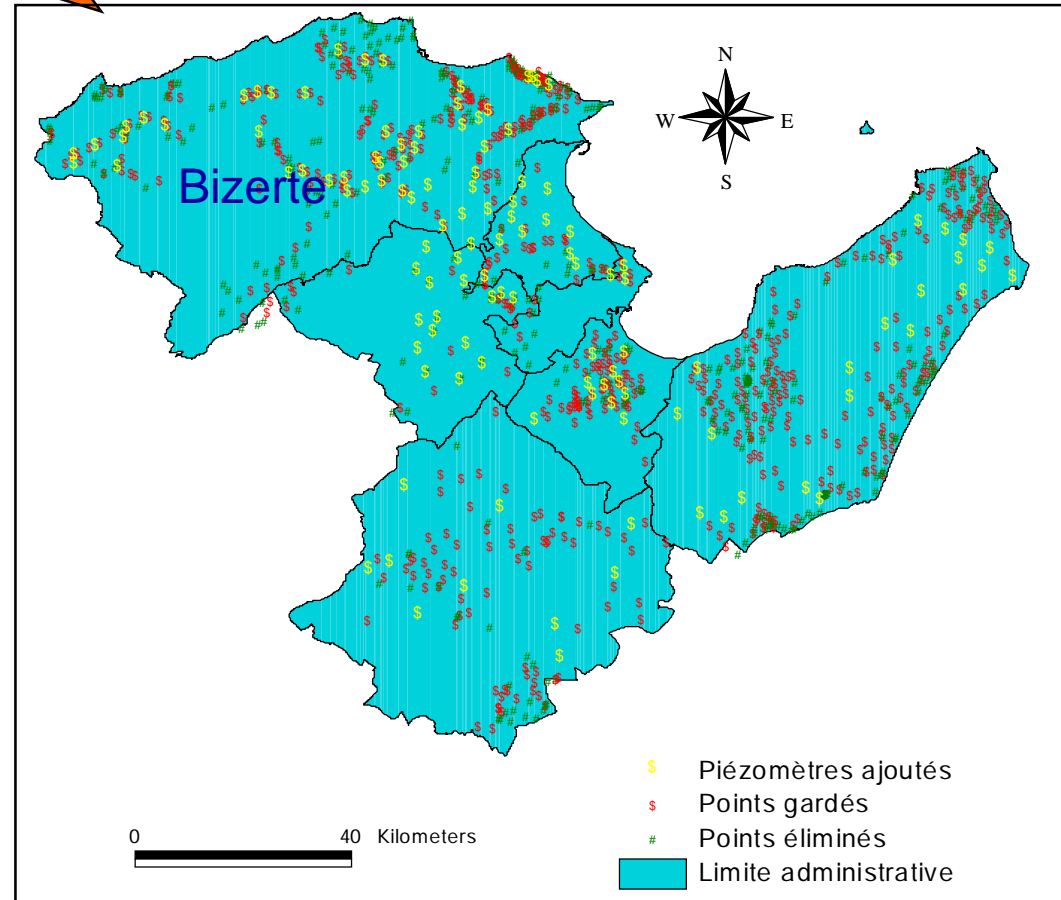
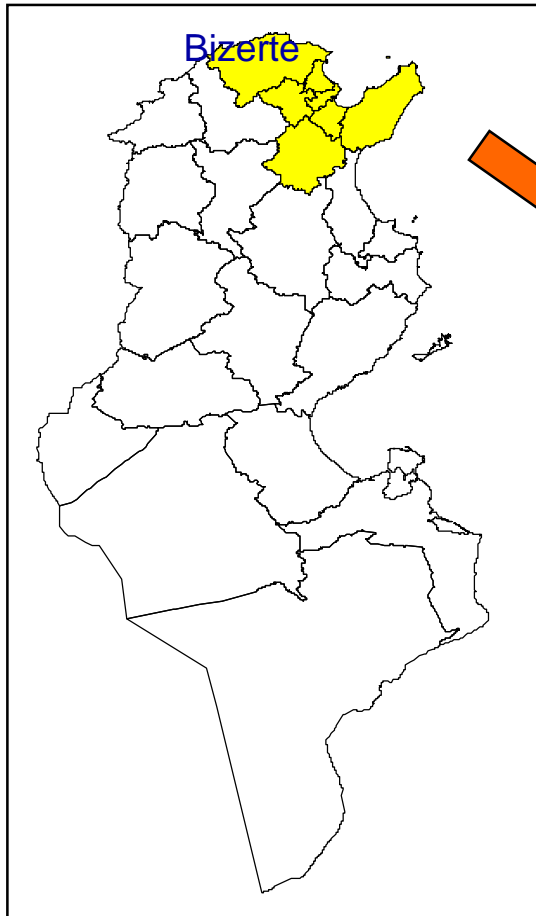
Conductivité: µS/cm

pH:

Historiques de mesures des paramètres



**The study was carried out by
gouvernorat
(24 gouvernorat in Tunisia)**



The methodology of work

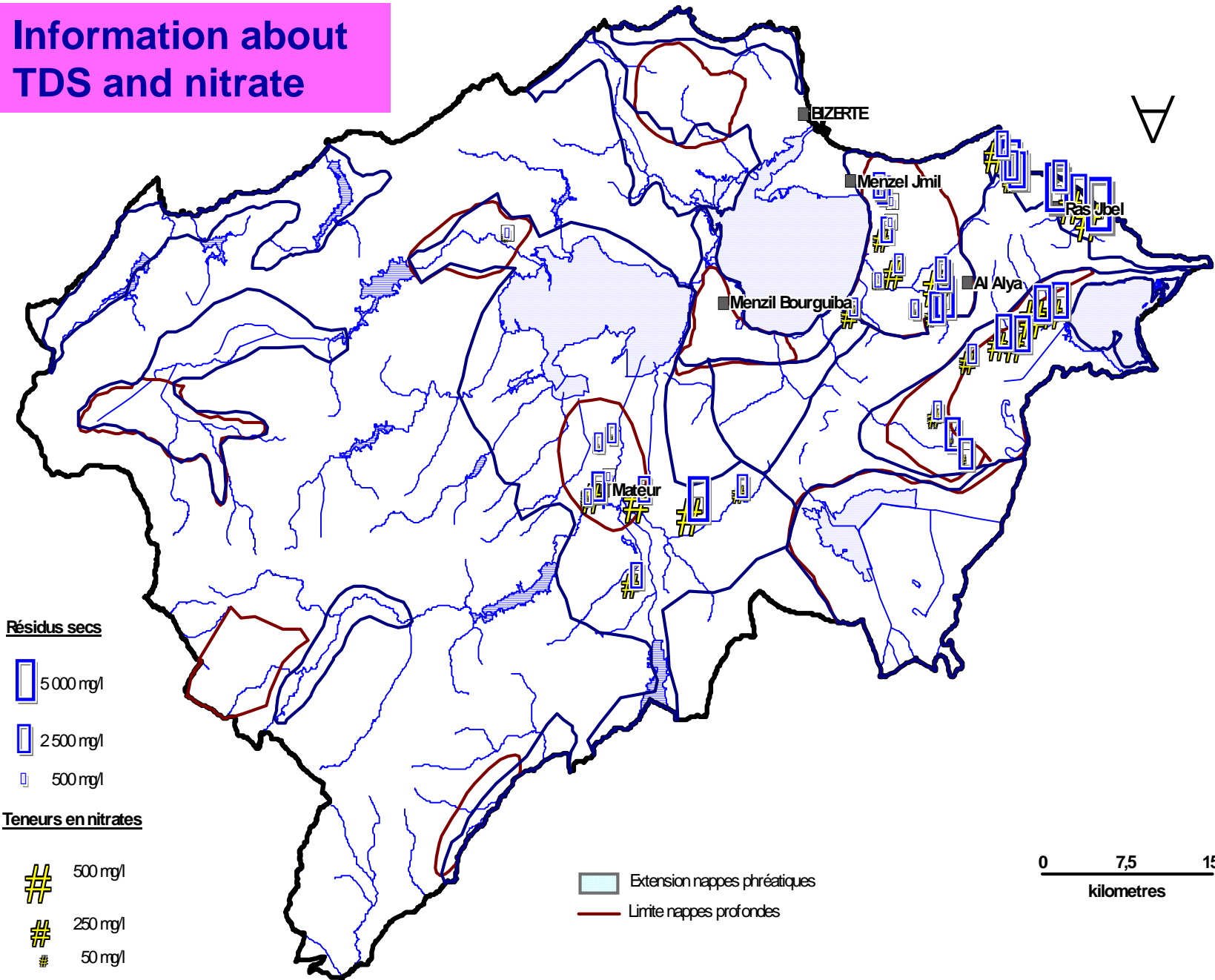
It is based on :

- The analysis of the existing network
- The analysis of the data evolution

The elimination or the adding of new monitoring boreholes depends on the following points:

- Spatial distribution of the existing network,
- The location of Water pollution sources
- Hydrodynamic characteristic of the aquifer
- The existing of abstraction shallow or deep wells

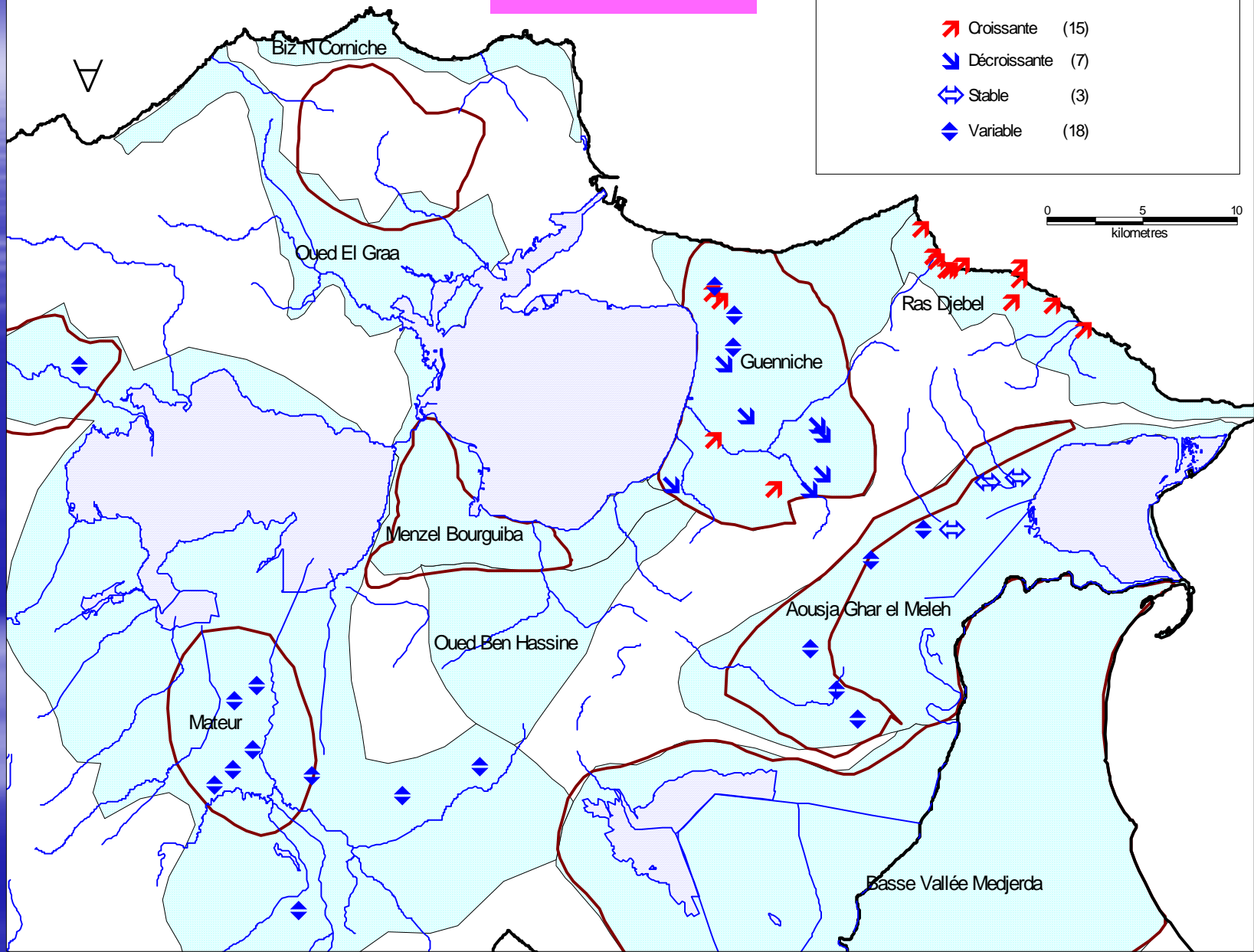
Information about TDS and nitrate



TDS trend





Tendances de variation des résidus secs entre 1998 et 2004

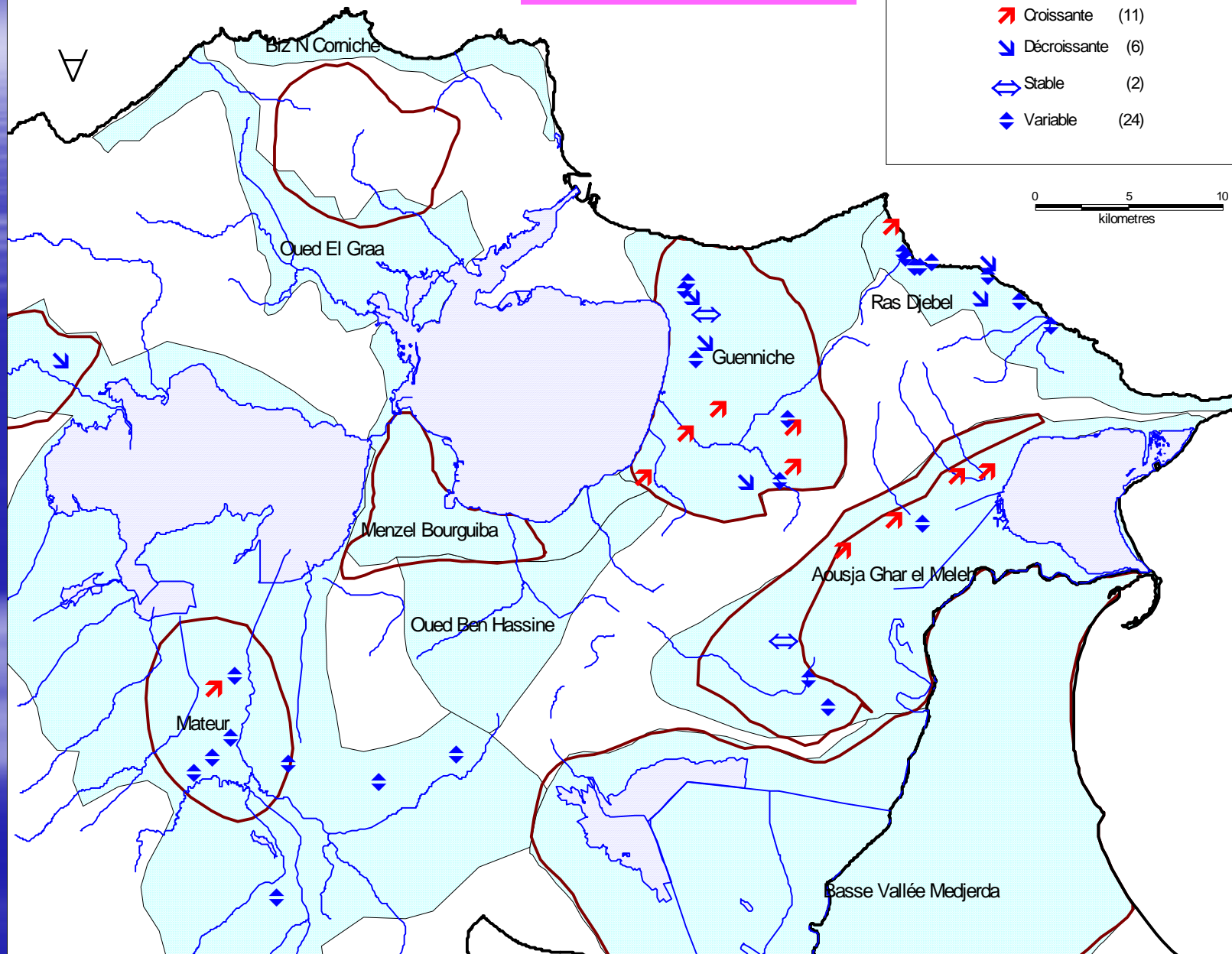
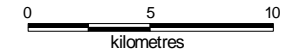
- ↗ Croissante (15)
- ↘ Décroissante (7)
- ↔ Stable (3)
- ◆ Variable (18)



Nitrate trend

Tendances de variations des nitrates
de 1998 à 2004

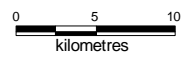
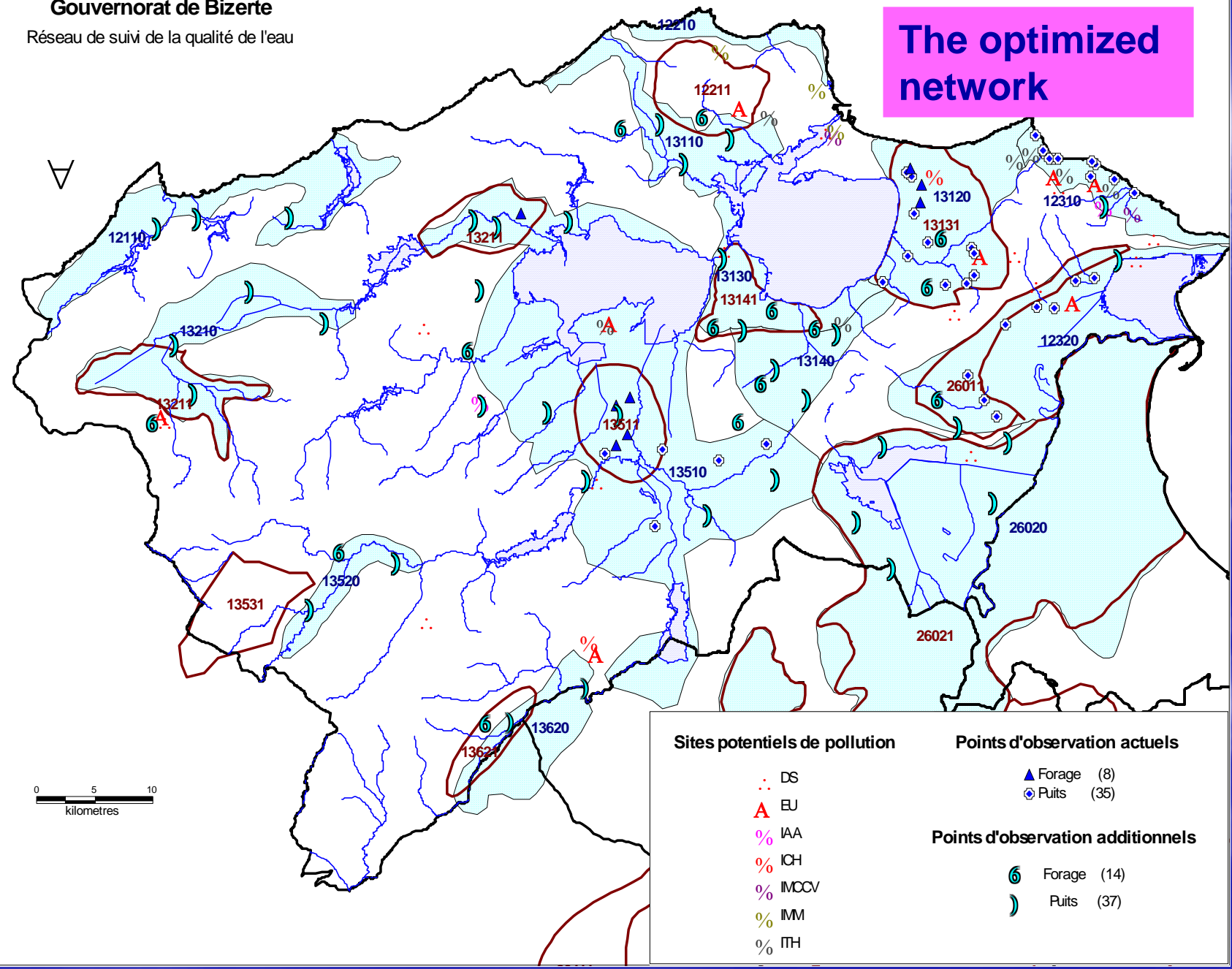
-  Croissante (11)
-  Décroissante (6)
-  Stable (2)
-  Variable (24)



Gouvernorat de Bizerte

Réseau de suivi de la qualité de l'eau

The optimized network



Sites potentiels de pollution

- ⋯ DS
- ▲ EU
- % IAA
- % ICH
- % IMCCV
- % IMM
- % ITH

Points d'observation actuels

- ▲ Forage (8)
- ⊙ Puits (35)

Points d'observation additionnels

- ⊖ Forage (14)
-) Puits (37)

The networks exploitation

The networks exploitation CONCLUSION

Water quality monitoring networks

- **Data base with long history evolutions**
 - Assess the conditions of our water resources (surface water and groundwater resources)
 - Identify the risks of water pollution
 - Elaborate predictive studies
 - Delimitate the protection and banning zones (for water use or abstraction)
 - Update our water resources legal policies

DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM
FOR
A WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT

THANK YOU