

TUNISIA



Source: esri

General

Tunisia - officially the Republic of Tunisia - is located in North Africa. Its northernmost point, Cape Angela, is the northernmost point on the African Continent. It is bordered by Algeria in the West and Southwest, Libya in the Southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea in the North and East. The area of the country is 16.5 Mha (million hectares) with in 2020 a population of 11.8 million, or 0.72 persons per ha (Wikipedia and United Nations, 2019).

Climate and geography

Tunisia's climate is Mediterranean in the North, with mild rainy winters and hot, dry summers. Though Tunisia is relatively small in size, it has a great environmental diversity due to the large distance from North to South. The differences are also caused by the sharply decreasing rainfall southward. The south of the country is desert. The terrain in the North is mountainous, which, moving South, gives way to a hot, dry central plain. The South is semi-arid, and merges into the Sahara.

A series of salt lakes, known as *chotts* or *shatts*, lie in an East-west line at the northern edge of the Sahara, extending from the Gulf of Gabes into Algeria. The lowest point is Chott el Djerid at 17 m-MSL (mean sea level) (source: Wikipedia). However, this is not a polder, but a natural depression.

Existing polders

Two polders, could be identified.

Polder Utique, This polder is located in the Northern part of the country and has an area of 1,230 ha. The lay out of the drainage and irrigations schemes of the polder are shown in Figure 1.

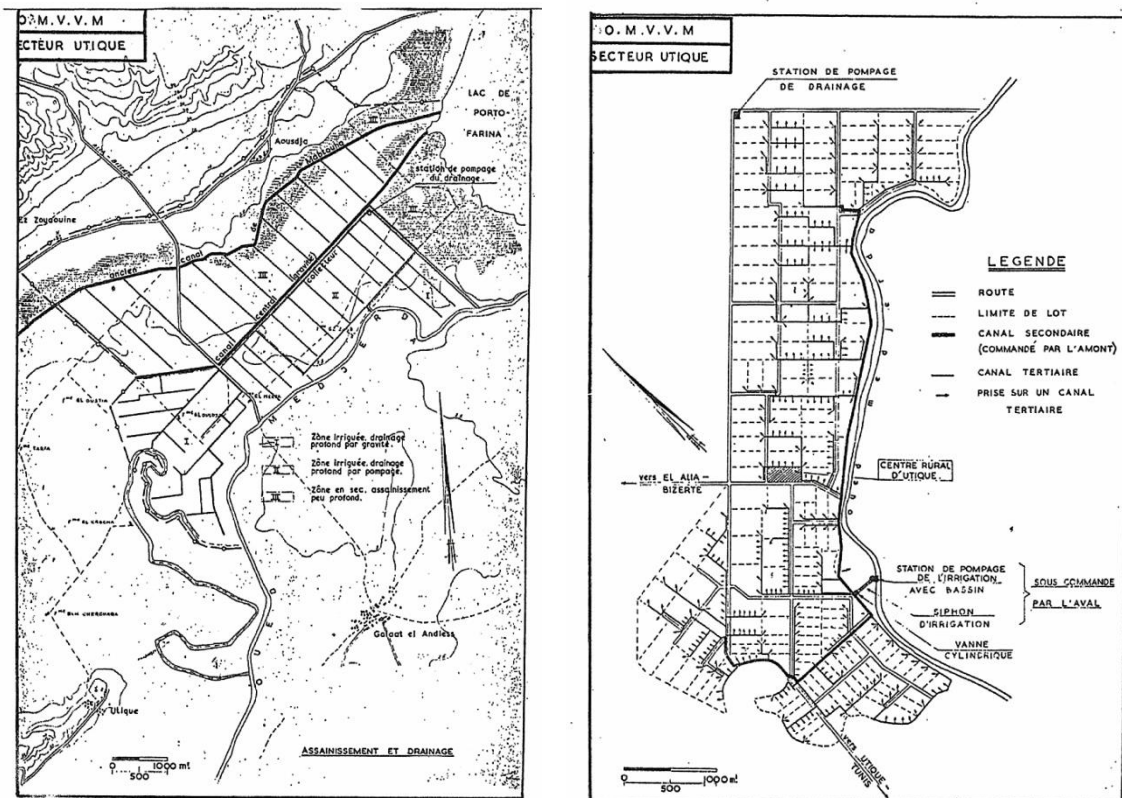


Figure 1. Drainage and irrigation system of Polder Utique (Kop, in preparation)

Berges du Lac. This is an affluent neighbourhood in Tunis. It has developed since the 1980s after building polders in Tunis Lake. It harbours many embassies and hotels (Figure 2) (en.wikipedia).



Figure 2. Aerial view of *Berges du Lac* (en.wikipedia)

General characteristics of the existing polders in Tunisia are shown in Table I.

Proposed polders

No proposed polders could be identified.

References

Group Polder Development, 1982. *Polders of the World. Compendium of polder projects*. Delft, the Netherlands

Kop, J., in preparation. *Tunisia: the Unique Polder*. In *Polder landscapes of the World*.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. 2019. *World population prospects, medium prognosis. The 2019 revision*. New York, USA.

Bart Schultz

Lelystad, February 2021

Table I. General characteristics of existing polders in Tunisia

Name	Reclamation	Area in ha	Type *)	Latitudes	Longitudes	Elevation in m+MSL	Land use
Polder Utique	1962-1970	1220	RLL	37° 05' N	10° 06' E	2	Vegetables, fruits and fodder
Berges du Lac	1980	1300	DL	36° 50' N	10° 15' E	2	Urban
Total		2520					

*) RLL = reclaimed low-lying land; LGS = land gained on the sea; DL = drained lake