



**UNITED NATIONS
NATIONS UNIES
21st Century**

Duration : 2' 37"

Tunisia

VIDEO

MAP (ZOOM) SHOWING
TUNISIA, GULF OF GABES AND
KERKENNAH ISLANDS

UNDERWATER SEA GRASS
BEDS

HASSEN ON CAMERA

PAN ON SOFT WATER WAVES

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Part of North Africa, Tunisia's coastline runs more than 1,300 kilometres along the Mediterranean Sea. Here, the Kerkennah archipelago sits barely an hour ferry ride from the mainland in the Gulf of Gabes.

The shallow waters surrounding the islands are home to vast beds of sea grass. Fishermen, relying on nature's resources, as well as their own knowledge of tides and currents, have developed an intricate system for catching fish.

HASSEN: (In Arabic)

"Charfia is a traditional way of fishing, and it's the best way because it doesn't harm the sea."

NARRATION:

Although Charfia is a sustainable way of harvesting marine life, Hassen's baskets

are not as full as they used to be.

MOTORIZED BOATS ON
WATER

Marine pollution is a key factor in the fisheries decline. But the most destructive factor has been the increase in the number of motorized fishing boats using destructive fishing practices like bottom trawling. And making matters worse, an already depleted sea is getting warmer.

HAMADI ON COUPUTER

Hamadi Trabelsi says not only have the waters gotten warmer in the last thirty years, but the sea level is also rising with disastrous results.

HAMADI: (In French)

“You will see palm trees and other trees dying because of sea water intrusion.”

CU OF OLDER WOMAN

Island agriculture is also dying. The weather has been getting hotter, rainfall less predictable. The land, like the sea, is losing its capacity to provide.

INTRO OF HABIB WALKING

Since the 1990s, the government of Tunisia has increased investments in new waste water treatment plants.

HABIB : (In French)

HABIB ON CAMERA

“We are working to put into place a management plan to protect marine and coastal areas. Specifically there is one in the Kerkennah.”

NARRATION:

FISHERMEN DROPPING
CEMENT BLOCKS IN WATER

One project supports this experiment created by fishermen. They are making cement blocks. Once placed in the sea, the blocks become obstacles to bottom trawling. Designed with holes, they also provide a home for young marine life.

WIND ON PALM TREE

Erratic weather, declining fishery, degraded habitats, marine erosion – it all adds up to a perfect storm of consequences for the fishermen of Kerkennah.

MONTAGE FISHING BOAT,
DEGRADED SEA GRASS BEDS,
EROSION

But Hassen is hopeful that the efforts against pollution and over-fishing will restore the marine habitats and bring back the fish.

