METHODFINDER

Practitioner's Guide:

Transect Analysis

An example from a country in Northern Africa

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Transect Analysis

Example:

Transect of a protected area

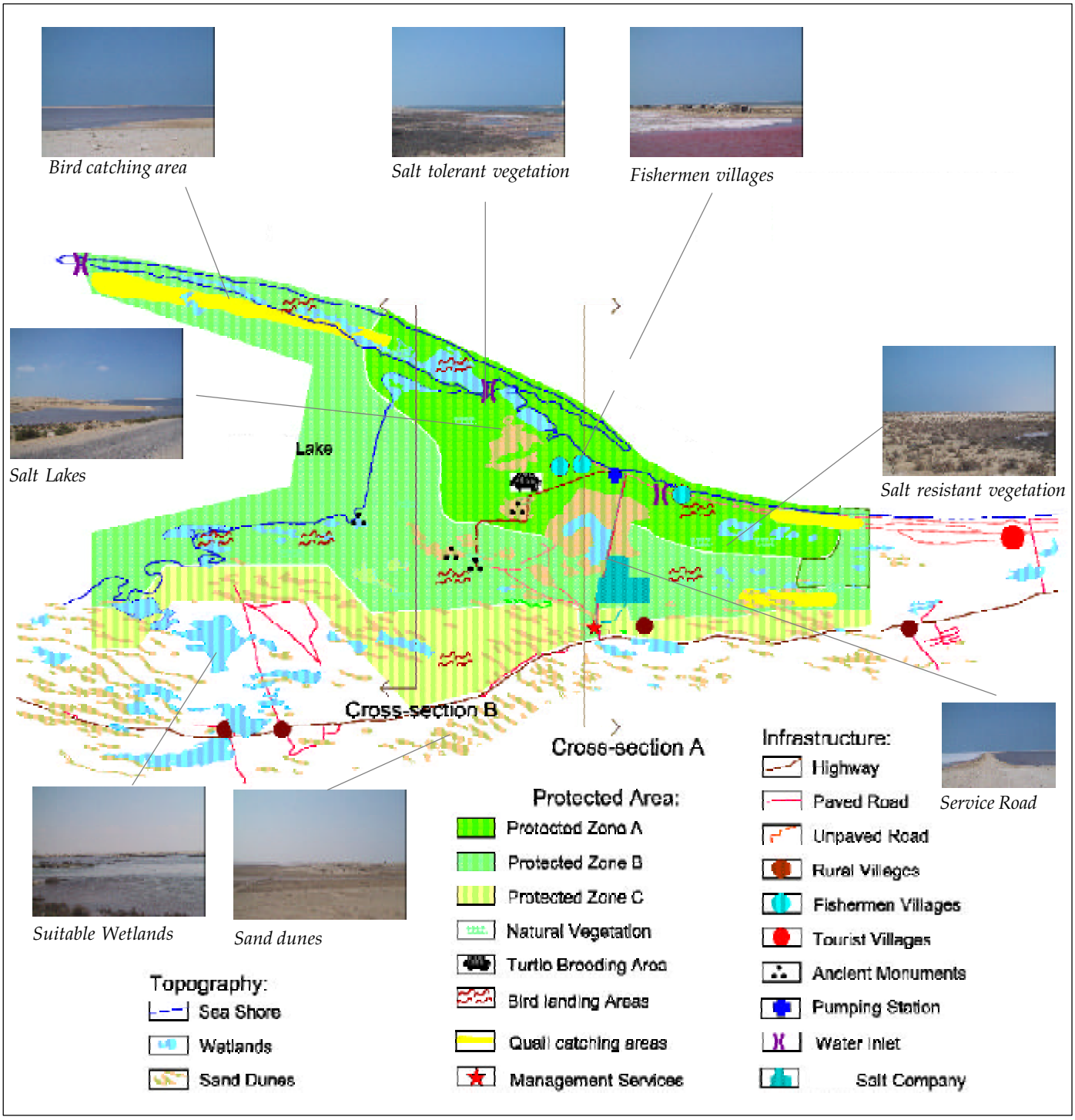
In regional planning project, participatory planning processes were used successfully on a number of different occasions, including:

- **Transect of a potential tourism area:** The purpose of the transect was to determine the tourism potential of the area. The transect was undertaken by members of the planning unit together with local residents and community members

- **Transect of a protected area:** In order to verify the information gathered on the protected area through other secondary data sources, the planning unit also conducted a transect walk through this specific area. This information was then integrated into the planning options that have been developed for the protected area.

Transect Analysis

Map 1: Transect Map of the Protected Area



Transect Analysis

As described in Map 1, two cross-sections have been analysed during the transect. The following features have been identified at the cross-sections of the protected area.

Figure 1: **North-south cross section east of the protected area**

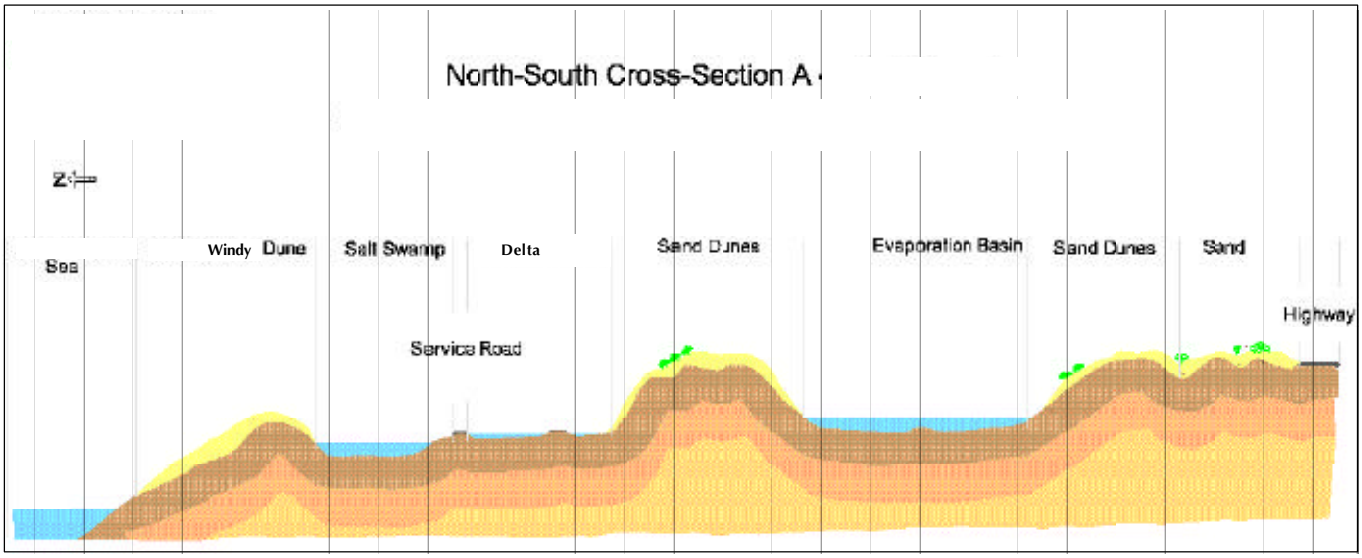


Table 1: **Transect A**

Transect Segment	Sea	Windy Dune	Salt marsh	Service Road	Delta (salt marsh)	Sand Dunes	Evapo-ration Basin	Sand Dunes	Sand	Highway
Characte-ristics	-	Sand bar between ake and sea	Affected by tides, a large part of it is submersed	Private dirt road main-tained by the salt factory	Biggest salt marsh in the area; almost constantly under water	Shape of a turned- over dish	Salt concentratio n basin, managed by salt factory. Sea water s pum ped nto it	Drifting sand raising from the basin.	Dusty sand, movement according to wind direction	Paved dual-ane national highway
Water	salt water	-	salty	-	salt water	-	highly concentrate d salt water	wet	dry	-
Soil	-	sand	Salty sand	compac-ted	-	moist and compacted sand	-	humid sand	Dusty sand of disintegrat ed sand grains	-
Vegetation	-	poor, some pioneer plants	few salt resistant plants and sea grass, some ice plants (mesembry -anthemum crystallinu m spp.)	-	Some highly salt resistant plants, e.g. uncus subultus spp., phragmites communis spp. and cynodoh dactylon spp.	various plant groups with different degrees of salt tolerance according to elevation and distance from salt water	on dry edges surrounding t some nitrana retusa spp. and lycium-anbicum spp. growth	few deeply rooted salt-tolerant plants e.g. thorn bush (ziziphus spina spp.) and spartium junceum spp.	some poor scattered plant growth, few single stand acacias	-

Transect Analysis

Figure 2: North-south cross section west of the protected area

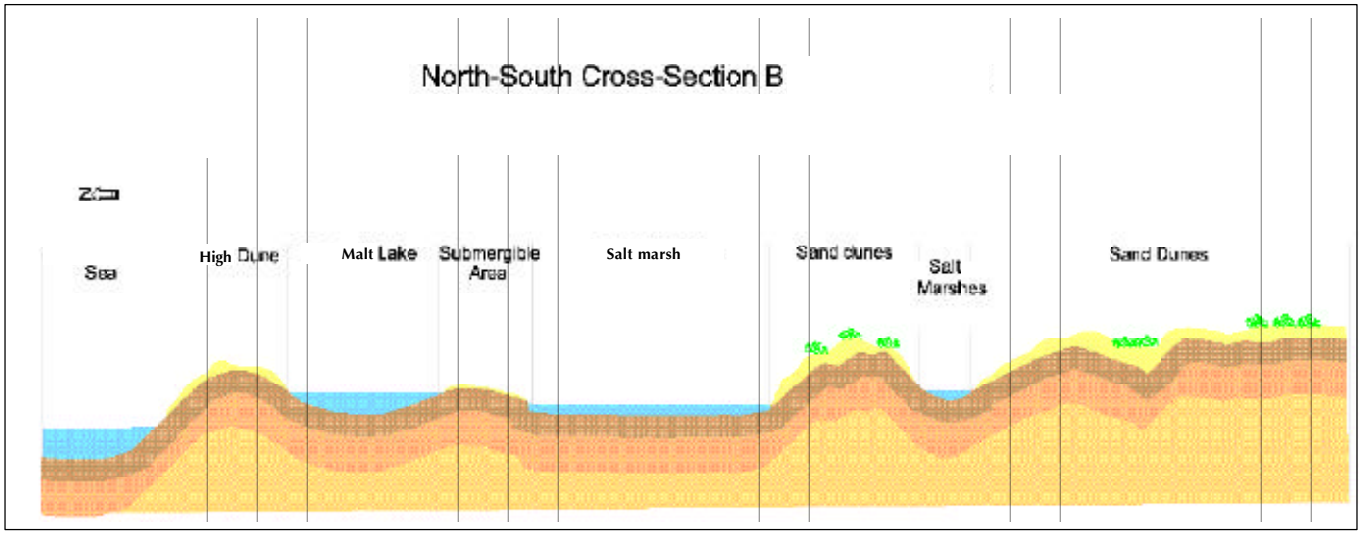


Table 2: Transect B

Transect Segment	Sea	Sand Dune	Lake Malt	Submer-gible Area	Salt Marshes	Sand Dune	Salt Marsh	Sand Dunes
Characteristics	-	Island between sea and lake	Eastern part of Lake Malt	Areas exposed to submersion with lake water	Biggest salt marsh in the area; almost constantly under water, some dry spots	Graded dune areas	Closed wet salty environment	Shifting sand dunes with agriculture in the depressions close to the ground water
Water	salt water	wet	highly brakish water	-	salt water	-	Sat water	-
Soil	-	sand	-	compacted salty sand	compacted salty sand	sand	compacted salty sand	sand
Vegetation	-	none	-	some highly salt resistant plants e.g. zygophylum album spp.	-	scattered deep rooted plant growth, e.g. nitrana retusa spp., lycium europium spp. and athel tamarix spp.	some patches of highly salt resistant plants on the borders	poor plant growth with patches of retama retam spp., rhamnus punctata spp. and thymelea hirsuta spp. some date palm trees parallel to the road