

# Lakes of Ounianga, Chad

## Facts

- Recommended by IUCN for inscription on the World Heritage List in June 2012 at the World Heritage Committee in Saint Petersburg, Russia, for its exceptional example of permanent lakes in a desert setting, as well as its range of striking aesthetic features.
- The Lakes of Ounianga are comprised of eighteen ecologically, geologically and hydrologically interconnected lakes within the Sahara Desert in the Ennedi region, West Ennedi department of Chad.
- The Lakes of Ounianga site is located in a basin which, less than 10,000 years ago, was occupied by a much larger lake and has a globally unique hydrological system, sustaining the largest permanent freshwater lakes system in the heart of a desert setting.
- The Ennedi area has not had a recent inventory of natural resources—only a few mammals and birds have been identified, amongst which fox, hyena, jackal, fennec fox, cape hare and gazelle.

## Quote

*“The Lakes of Ounianga are an overwhelmingly beautiful example of the marvels of nature—the shape and distribution of the lakes, combined with the effect of the wind moving the floating vegetation in the lakes, gives the impression of waves of water flowing in the desert,”* says **Youssouph Diedhiou** of IUCN’s Protected Areas Programme in Central and Western Africa.

## Media contact

- **Borjana Pervan**, IUCN Media Relations, t +41 22 999 0115, m +41 79 857 4072 ,  
e [borjana.pervan@iucn.org](mailto:borjana.pervan@iucn.org)

## Photos

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