

URBAN SEASCAPES: CELEBRATING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES FINAL EVENT IN TUNISIA

18,19 October 2023

Tunis, Tunisia

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ENSERES

ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas

Final Capitalisation Event

Dates and schedule (local time):

- 18 October 2023 - Gala dinner from 19:00 to 22:00 h.
- 19 October 2023 - Event from 9:00 to 18:00 h.

Venue: Hotel Ramada Plaza Tunis

Interpretation ARABIC – FRENCH - ENGLISH

[Registration here](#)

Rationale and context

The ENSERES project “**ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas**” seeks transformative changes by bending the environmental degradation curve with an integrated solution approach at the transboundary level, both inside and outside areas under legal protection i.e. protected areas, and involving public authorities, socio-economic actors and civil society organisations. It focuses on transferring and mainstreaming ecosystem-based management (EBM) basics to implement Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) processes in multi-level conservation and territorial practices leading to better-prepared communities and natural assets.

ENSERES is an initiative funded by the European Union, in the frame of the ENI CBC MED Cooperation Programme. It aims at transferring solutions across the Mediterranean shores to respond to the growing needs of coastal cities and protected area stakeholders to manage these areas in a sustainable way. These solutions are multifaceted and of various kinds including purposeful knowledge newly generated, monitoring and management support tools, and digital tailor-made platforms of relevance to target stakeholders. All these solutions are gathered in a user-friendly [catalogue](#) to make them easy to access and apply by different users.

The implementation of these solutions at different geographical scales, from the Mediterranean regional to the local level, requires the engagement of different types of actors and networks, from international environmental organizations to local authorities, working together to develop new policies, measures, and practices involving bluer and greener jobs at various levels. Knowledge of ecosystems and the environmental threats and pressures faced by Mediterranean coastal communities can provide the basis for the adoption of management measures within and outside protected areas using an ecosystem-based approach, as in the case of cities and protected areas collaborating in Sfax (Tunisia) and in Tyre (Lebanon), the pilot sites of the ENSERES project.

The insights and lessons learnt gained from the knowledge transfer activities, subgrants provided to local organizations, and networking with similar projects and institutions will be widely shared at the Mediterranean level during this event, which follows on from national events held in both countries. This final event plays a crucial role in promoting the findings and results beyond the project area and opens up opportunities for future progress.

Objectives

The objective of the final event is to showcase the results of the ENSERES project and examine their relevance to the challenges faced in the Mediterranean region with regard to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal biodiversity as well as increasing the resilience of coastal communities and their livelihoods within and around protected areas.

The expected outcomes include:

- Highlighting the successes achieved through **collaborative efforts** among **protected area and city stakeholders** for enhancing socio-ecological resilience levels along the Mediterranean coastal region.
- Transferring effective solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature in coastal cities and protected areas, and **showcasing co-designed approaches** that foster everyone’s involvement in their management.
- **Improving the capacities** of local stakeholders through effective cooperative exchanges on joint solutions to boost Tunisia and Lebanon's ecosystems, and environmental and cultural values, combat marine pollution and **conserve our shared natural resources**.

Participants

This event aims at engaging stakeholders interested or involved in coastal and marine management, and presenting findings that can guide more effective conservation efforts, with a focus on the role of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol (ICZM) and the Protected Areas network in the Mediterranean. This event aims to engage the following stakeholders: regional, national and local authorities and technical teams, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), researchers, the fishing community, tourism stakeholders, and EU programmes representatives.

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss first-hand with the key partners, collaborators and civil society organizations who have tested some of the tools included in the ENSERES toolkit, and learn from the actions deployed by the subgrantees' community to increase awareness regarding Mediterranean biodiversity, ecosystems, and the value and services they provide, among young people, public officials, conservation officers, and the general public. The added benefit of working together with a shared vision and goals in safeguarding biodiversity and promoting sustainable local livelihoods will be part of the agenda.

The event is organized by the ENSERES partnership. This partnership is led by ETC-UMA and includes : SPA/RAC, MedCities, MedPAN, the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (Lebanon), the Municipality of Sfax (Tunisia), and the MEDSEA Foundation.

AGENDA

Urban Seascapes: Celebrating Sustainable Coastal Communities

Wednesday, 18 October 2023

Gala dinner (time and venue to be confirmed)

19:00 - 19:30	Welcome by Tunisian hosts	
19:30 - 22:00	Gala dinner	



Thursday, 19 October 2023 (speakers to be confirmed)

8:30 - 9:00 Registration and welcome of the participants

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

9:00 - 9:30

The national dimension by the Minister of Environment of Tunisia, Leila Chikhaoui-Mahdaoui

The Mediterranean dimension by UNEP MAP SPA/RAC, Khalil Attia, Director

European cooperation by the Ministry of Economy and Planning of Tunisia, Fethi Ben Mimoun, General Director of Cross-border Cooperation & ENI CBC MED programme focal point

Setting the ENSERES scene by ETC-UMA, Dania Abdul Malak, Director

SESSION 1

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ZONE – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This session will debate which conservation strategies and tools are at stake for enhancing the Mediterranean resilience in the face of global change; How can the current regional biodiversity conservation and urban development agendas be better aligned for an ecosystem-based management approach and Which is the role of cities and people in enhancing conservation policy implementation on the ground.

A Setting-the-ENSERES-scene presentation will be followed by a round of panel discussions, from a Mediterranean to a local perspective.

Facilitator: Souha El Asmi

Framing presentation: Christoph Schröder, ETC-UMA (10 min)

9:30 - 11:00

Panel discussion

- **The Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean**; UNEP MAP PAP/RAC, *Marko Prem*
- **The Post-2020 Strategic Action Programmes for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and for Marine and Coastal Protected Areas in Mediterranean**; UNEP MAP SPA/RAC, *Khalil Attia*
- **A Sustainable Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean coast**; MedCities, *Oriol Barba*
- **The Road to 2030 Post-2020 Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Roadmap**; MedPAN (video statement)
- **Challenges and opportunities in implementing conservation tools in Tunisia**; Ministry of Environment of Tunisia, *Mr. Hedi Chebili*

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 11:30

SESSION 2

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN AND AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

This session will debate on pressures on marine protected areas with a focus on peri-urban settings and the role other actors need to play to alleviate them. It will shed light on how ENSERES has contributed to improve transferable co-management actions strengthening cooperation and dialogue between local actors from cities and protected areas around cities through a variety of capacity building actions ranging from knowledge repositories, civil society engagement to active training in the field.

Facilitator: Souha El Asmi

Introductory address: MedPAN Video and the ENSERES toolkit

11:30 - 13:00

Capacity building opportunities for marine protected areas and coastal cities

MedPAN

Municipality of Sfax and subgrants in Tunisia

Tyre Coast Nature Reserve (TCNR) and subgrants in Lebanon

Addressing participatory governance tools

Addressing sustainable tourism

Mentoring and transfer activities

MedCities

Addressing climate change

Addressing marine litter and artisanal fisheries

LUNCH BREAK

13:00 – 14:00

SESSION 3

TOOLS DEVELOPED AND EXPERIENCE GAINED ON THE GROUND – HOW HAS ENSERES CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN COASTAL AREAS?

This session will look at solutions designed and tested by ENSERES and the results achieved in Tyre and Sfax, the pilot sites, with an overview of ENSERES supporting subgrants. The outcomes of the twinning programme between Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) for participating sites will be discussed, with an interactive presentation of experiences, challenges and transferable solutions extracted through ENSERES.

Facilitator: Luca Foschi, MedSea Foundation

Setting the scene: Synthesizing ENSERES results by Souha El Asmi (15 min)

14:00 - 16:00	<p>Panel 1: Exchange programmes and visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SPAMI Twinning partners ● MedSea Foundation ● Local Action Plans <p>Panel 2: Voices of local beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selected ENSERES subgrantees ● Subgrant coordinators 	Cities, marine protected areas and civil society representatives
<p>SESSION 4</p> <p>THE WAY FORWARD - next steps in coastal biodiversity protection and management in the Mediterranean</p> <p>The last session will look into new alliances and opportunities for partners, protected areas and cities, based on the ENSERES experience and commitments, as well as potential new initiatives by the NEXT MED Programme and other collaborative and funding mechanisms beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>Facilitator: Souha El Asmi</p>		
16:00 - 17:00	<p>From ENI CBC MED to NEXT MED Alejandro Lafarga, Interreg NEXT MED Programme</p> <p>The MedFund / The Mediterranean MPA Forum 2025 / The 30x30 target: fulfilling commitments (speaker to be confirmed)</p> <p>Networking Mediterranean cities and protected areas by MedCities Oriol Barba</p> <p>Conclusions by ETC-UMA Dania Abdul Malak</p>	
	<p>Photo call / refreshments</p>	
18:00	<p>Meeting closure</p>	