



MedCities Annual Seminar 2023  
Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina) and online 22- 23 November 2023

*The event will count with interpretation English-French-Arabic*

## **Reversing biodiversity lose in urban environments in a context of climate crisis: ecosystem approach and nature based solutions**

### **Rationale and context**

The Mediterranean region has witnessed dramatic changes in recent years. The unprecedented growth in population has led to major urbanisation, especially in coastal areas. The cumulative impacts of overexploitation, population, governance and climate change exerted pressures on Mediterranean coastal and marine areas are leading to undermine biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and threatening the Mediterranean lifestyle. Cities are at the forefront of this crisis.

As a reaction to this grave global situation, The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15 2022) ended with a landmark agreement to guide global action on nature. The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) aims to address biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and protect indigenous rights. In this line, the use of Nature based Solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based management (EBM) approaches is becoming crucial. If aiming to attain a healthy and resilience Mediterranean they need to be applied both, inside and outside protected areas, including urban territories. There is a growing number of transferable experiences and tools for the application of integrated governance and management approaches in the case of both cities and protected areas. This would be the experience of Sfax (Tunisia) and Tyre (Lebanon) in their participation in the project [ENSERES “ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas”](#)<sup>1</sup>. Sharing experiences alike will help identifying adaptable, transferable solutions to apply at local level to build resilience at Mediterranean scale. To sustain this approach in time it is essential to integrate it in the work plan of existing networks and to reinforce the connections among them. With this aim, MedCities and the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPA) managers’ network, MedPAN, will share the recently agreed Memorandum of Understanding to build cooperation and align positions in relevant policy processes.

### **Objective of the seminar:**

- Highlighting the collaborative successes achieved among protected area and city stakeholders for enhancing socio-ecological resilience levels along the Mediterranean coast.
- Sharing local transferable experiences in applying NbS and EBM experiences to blue and green infrastructure.
- Identifying MedCities members’ priorities to address through the Working Groups on “Coastal cities” and “Planning green cities”.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Draft Programme

Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> of November		
09:00	Opening and welcome addresses	Representative of Sarajevo Municipality Mr. Josep Canals-Molina, MedCities Secretary General
09:15	MedCities network engagement in increasing resilience through protecting blue and green infrastructure	Mr. Oriol Barba, Director, MedCities
09:40	Biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas; findings of the project ENSERES	Mr. Christoph Schröder, ENSERES project manager, ETC-UMA
10:00	<p>Session 1: The benefit of bridging cities and protected areas: governance solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance framework and action at a municipal marine protected area, Tyre, Lebanon</li> <li>• The case of Regional Natural Park of Camargue Delta, Marseille, France</li> <li>• Partnering with NGOs, ARCHELON Sea Turtle Rescue Centre, Glyfada, Greece</li> <li>• Management Implications at a Protected, Peri-Urban, Salt Lake Ecosystem: Larnaca's Salt Lakes, Cyprus</li> <li>• The case of Cap d'Agde MPA, Agde, France</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ali Badreddine, Manager, Tyre Coast Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Mr. Jean-Charles Lardic, Deputy to the Services General Director, Ville de Marseille</li> <li>• Mr. Sokratis Zachos, Secretary General, Municipality of Glyfada</li> <li>• Mr. Andreas Ttaouxi, Councillor, Municipality of Larnaca</li> <li>• Mr. Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, director of the MPA of Cap d'Agde, MedPAN Board Member</li> </ul>
11:15	Coffee break	
11:45	<p>Session 2: Nature based solutions to increase resilience in a biodiversity crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joining forces to address marine pollution in the municipality of Sfax, Tunisia</li> <li>• Enhancing green infrastructures to deliver a resilience city, the case of Jerash, Jordan</li> <li>• Data-driven policy making for the management of the Düden Waterfall area, Antalya, Turkey</li> <li>• The Life A_GreeNet project for the climate adpation of Adriatic coastal cities, Ancona, Italy</li> <li>• Monitoring water pollution and enhancing marine diversity through collaboration with research institutes, Mersin, Turkey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Hatem Hyadi, Directeur général des affaires administratives, unicipality of Sfax</li> <li>• Ms. Belal Quaderi, Council Member, Municipality of Jerash</li> <li>• Ms. Zeynep Çiftçiabaşı, Head of Foreign Affairs, Metropolitan Municipality of Antalya</li> </ul>

*In the framework of the Project ENSERES*

*With the support of*





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Fabio Vallarola, Head of Environment Department, Municipality of Ancona</li><li>• Mr. Doğukan Uyan, Head of Water and Sewerage Administration, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality</li></ul>
<b>12:45</b>	The way ahead : MedCities Working Groups Bridging networks: the MoU with MedPAN	Mr. Josep Canals Molina, Secretary General, MedCities Mr. Renaud Dupuy de la Grandrive, director of the MPA of Cap d'Agd, MedPAN Board member
<b>13:30</b> <b>14:30</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	
<b>14:30</b> <b>16:30</b>	Sarajevo on site visit	
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November</b>		
<b>09:00</b> <b>13:00</b>	Ordinary General Assembly 2023	Separated agenda engaging 73 members and observers.
<b>13:00</b> <b>14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	
<b>14:00</b> <b>16:00</b>	Study visit on ecosystem approach and nature based solutions in the city of Sarajevo	
	Departure from Sarajevo	