

Introduction

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Strategic elements to achieve re-natured cities and sustainability-related challenges in the Mediterranean cities/urban areas

1. Nature in cities must be seen as a source for innovative solutions.
2. NbS must be always context-adapted, and therefore, it is paramount to consider the complex geo-politic reality of the Mediterranean.
3. ...

Suitable NbS to get the best results, in terms of societal and biodiversity benefits

1. Multiple challenges faced by Med-cities concerning social inequities and disconnection with Nature could be adequately addressed by NbS. However, NbS concept and impacts should be better defined.
2. There is no "one-size-fits-it-all" NbS policy: the best NbS must always be adapted to the local circumstances and needs.
3. NbS applied to the Mediterranean urban areas should consider three main connections:
 - Urban-peri-urban territory
 - Land-sea connection
 - Urban green corridors
4. Greening and re-naturing cities is a strategic NbS addressing multiple benefits: contribution to climate change adaptation, reduction of the heat-island effect, reduction of noise, improvement of health and well-being of residents, avifauna attraction, new visual and acoustic urban landscapes.
5. "Superblocks" are seen as an adequate urban model to promote sustainable and healthy cities in the Mediterranean, by changing the mobility model and releasing new public spaces for uses such as green corridors, community gardens, social and cultural activities, leisure, environmental education, etc.
6. Trees are strategic elements for re-naturing cities and providing, simultaneously, environmental and multiple societal benefits. Paying attention to species selection is important though; and also the promotion of a stronger collaboration between municipalities in this regard.
7. Urban agriculture is part of the solution: a great interest for community initiatives promoting proximity for local production and consumption is shown all over the region.
8. A right to energy, efficient and inclusive, with gender perspective, should be developed in the Mediterranean cities.
9. NBS related to marine and coastal environment should be the next step in the process of implementing bio-inspired solutions in the urban areas of the region.

Tools to facilitate NbS implementation in Mediterranean cities

Seven areas of actions were identified:

- Actions to promote empowerment of local population as drivers of change, taking advance of the sense of “community” that is intrinsic in the Mediterranean region.
- Education in values linked to long-term sustainability vs short-term profit making values.
- Communication and awareness innovative actions allowing ownership of NbS concept.

- Consider the accessibility to Nature as a social justice challenge/right.
- Long-term NbS policy with compulsory rules.
- Promotion of more links health-green cities.
- A shift in public procurement regulations (avoiding the “auction” effect).
- Alignment of economic indicators to environmental and societal concerns.

- Integrated policy frameworks are key for supporting sustainable urban integrated agendas and the implementation of Nbs

contact the “Maison du Climat” de Tanger, for exploring the possibility of organising there this event in the coming months.

- Creation of an online platform, similar to those implemented by the European projects Naturvation, Oppla or Eklipse in the EU region, offering the possibility of mapping case studies of NbS in the Med-cities, exchanging good practices and methodologies, and allowing the creation of a network of cities, practitioners and social stakeholders for the promotion of this bio-inspired approach in the region.

ⁱ Superblocks are areas (from 16 to 20 Ha.) of the city where the traffic is restricted to the roads in the superblock perimeters. Cars are only allowed in the streets in between if they are residents, emergencies or providing local businesses, and at a reduced speed of 10km/h.

ⁱⁱ 1/3 of the green spaces in Med-