



Cultural Landscapes Conference 2022

Activity Report Summary

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For more information



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AMNC Overview

The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture (AMNC) is a group of NGOs working together to support Mediterranean cultural landscapes. Working in local communities to promote, improve and sustain their traditional practices, we effectively contribute to biodiversity and local livelihoods as well as to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Funded by the MAVA Foundation between 2017 and 2022 to implement a joint action plan on promoting sustainable land-use practices, we have been collaborating since 2017 to deliver a more comprehensive environmental impact alongside socio-economic improvements. This is possible through an ever-stronger bond of 14 partners around the Mediterranean with pilot sites in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, allowing for impact at scale.



Event Generalities

Aim

The Cultural Landscapes Conference (CLC) aimed to discuss and widen the cultural landscapes (CLs) approach with its diverse elements such as climate crisis adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation and empowerment of local livelihoods. The conference showcased the results of the AMNC's work and served as a key occasion for learning from each other and developing synergies and collaborations for future CLs conservation and restoration in the Mediterranean via engagement with practitioners, conservationists, researchers, policymakers, donors and the private sector. Key components were the demonstration and promotion of:

- The knowledge about the links between cultural practices (CPs), biodiversity and climate crisis and how these links support human well-being;
- The approaches which ensure economic and financial sustainability of cultural practice-based economies;
- The advocacy work that enables policy changes in favour of CPs and CLs;
- The governance systems for participatory CLs management;
- The approaches which strengthen local capacities for improved and sustainable management practices while offering space for co-creation

Themes

- Community-based conservation for biodiversity and climate action: Connecting CPs with nature conservation
- Sustainable communities and societies: Establishing sustainable, nature-positive agri-food systems with community-led governance
- Beneficiary-focused work: Collaborating with local communities for their socio-economic well-being and for protecting their rights
- Economic sustainability of CLs: Funding schemes and on-site income generation
- Scaling up partnerships: From strategic priorities to international fieldwork cooperation



Overview

The 3-day conference comprised 9 plenary sessions, 8 workshops, open-air cinema and stands, exhibiting AMNC pilot sites* and its practices. The conference programme was structured to foster exchange between participants around the possible future areas of collaboration. This was achieved by hosting workshops on 8 different topics. Time was allocated for reflection on the discussions during workshops, which addressed clues for future actions and collaborations. Many organisations and institutions included but not limited to below from and beyond the Mediterranean attended the conference: Al Shouf Cedar Society, Associação Natureza Portugal, Association Biom - BirdLife Croatia, BirdLife International, EuroNatur, Global Diversity Foundation, Global Footprint Network, GOB Menorca, International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, IUCN Med, LogistiX-movingideas, MAVA Foundation Pour la Nature, Mediterranean Institute for Anthropos and Nature, Nature Metrics, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon, StoneSoup, The Biodiversity Consultancy, Tour du Valat, Trashumancia y Naturaleza, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Universidade de Évora, University of Gottingen, Vulture Conservation Foundation, WWF North Africa, WWF Spain, Yolda Initiative.

The conference was opened by the president of the LNEC, Laura Caldeira; the director of the ANP-WWF Portugal, Ângela Morgado and the director of the Yolda Initiative and the coordinator of AMNC, Engin Yilmaz with a special welcome highlighting the strategic importance of the conference in the context of conservation from a nature and culture perspective which acknowledges human communities as allies. The opening session ended with the keynote José Muñoz-Rojas of Universidade de Évora, marking the landscape approach as an operational construct enhancing rural sustainability and highlighting the importance of local communities for good and sustainable management of the landscapes.

Conference Highlights

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Showcasing the work and impact of the AMNC between 2017-2022

Consecutive sessions addressed the AMNC partners' the collective work on 8 sites in 7 countries and highlighted the established environmental, socio-economic and political aspects impact - showcased by (1) enhancing and communicating multiple knowledge sources regarding promoting traditional ecological knowledge and community-based conservation, (2) conservation for sustainable livelihoods based on actions targeting favourable policies and economic options, (3) supporting community-based governance systems for participatory cultural landscapes management and (4) the collective impact on biodiversity, climate, the socio-economic well-being of local communities and policies.

Potential future work of the AMNC 2023-2025

Presentations on current and foreseen challenges in the nature conservation sector and the AMNC's strategic plan, drafted by the AMNC consultant Marko Pećarević as a response to those, were presented through defined strategic objectives (1) Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Healthy food and thriving communities with small-scale production for large-scale impact, (2) Land Stewardship for Cultural Landscapes: The economically viable path, (3) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation for a sustainable impact: Tackling the climate crisis together, (4) Supporting Community Based Actions Lead to Biodiversity Conservation and (5) Pastoralism: A Game Changer for Biodiversity and Climate Action.



Conference Highlights

Financial frameworks in support of cultural landscapes, biodiversity, climate and livelihoods

A series of 3 sessions was organised on the second day: (1) A public plenary on the role of public funding and funding through multilateral organisations, (2) a public dialogue involving the participants for questions on the origin and future of cultural landscapes related to funding and financial frameworks through philanthropic foundations and in cooperation with other stakeholders and (3) a closed session for selected conference participants with a focus discussion on future financial frameworks for the AMNC. The series of sessions included live-speeches and Q&A's with Terrence Hay-Edie (UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme) as well as Makiko Yanagiya (United Nations University, Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability and International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative) as well as video-speeches from Gonzalo Oviedo (MAVA Foundation) and David Thomas (Endangered Landscapes Programme). Lastly, concrete opportunities were discussed, such as potential partnerships with EU-based foundations or financing through crowdfunding and -lending. The latter was introduced by Manuel Nery Nina (GoParity), showing their successful experiences since their start in 2017.

Thematic Exchange Sessions (workshop-format)

- Innovative tools to monitor biodiversity satellite image usage via STAR (Species threat abatement and restoration) metrics to DNA usage
- Gender Aspects of the Cultural Landscapes Approach incl. gender-careful actions and gender approaches in conservation with local communities
- How can traditional products find their place in a globalised market incl. co-development of regional standards for enhancing biodiversity, etc.
- Role of human mobility in the use and management of resources in cultural landscapes incl. the role of shepherds, refugees, migrants & else
- Collaborating with pastoralists toward UN IYRP 2026 to identify common actions until towards favourable policy in Mediterranean and European countries
- Land Stewardship: Keeping practitioners engaged with nature conservation and sustainable practices incl. training and vision-building with practitioners







Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture

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YOU CAN WATCH A VIDEO OF THE CONFERENCE
BY FOLLOWING [THE LINK HERE](#)