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MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY 2022

— TOWARDS A RESILIENT COAST

CONTACT

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Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



21
Mediterranean
Coastal Zones Climate
Resilience Water Security
and Habitat Protection



WHAT IS MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY?



Celebrated each year on September 25, "Mediterranean Coast Day" is an occasion to pay tribute to the beauty of the Mediterranean coastline and life on it.

WHY?



To give the future generations the opportunity to enjoy it as much as we do, we call for an active commitment to the protection of our coast and our sea with the aim of developing them more sustainably.

THE 2022 EDITION IS DEDICATED TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

Repeated heat waves, catastrophic floods and forest fires recorded all over the world are an unmistakable sign of climate change.

In the Mediterranean region there is strong evidence of significant warming that will exceed the global average value by 20% on an annual basis and 50% in the summer (MedECC, 2020), with an unequivocal trend towards drier conditions. The impacts will put additional pressure on the already strained ecosystems and on vulnerable economies and societies.

WHO IS CONCERNED?



The 42% of the population of the Mediterranean basin living on the coast, those who benefit from it, those who protect it, those who sometimes visit or those who find inspiration, joy or inner peace there.

We shouldn't forget that these coastal areas face increased disaster risks, including flooding and erosion, as well as the salinization of deltas and aquifers that provide food security and livelihoods. Knowing that nearly 40% of the Mediterranean coastline is built-up and that the infrastructures are often very close to the mean sea level due to the low tidal range, exposure to the risk of flooding and erosion is a major issue. Sea level rise, storm surges and local subsidence will impact ports, port cities and other coastal infrastructure, as well as wetlands and beaches around the Mediterranean. Even a modest sea level rise of just 0.35 meters, consistent with a global temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius (the most optimistic scenario), would have substantial impacts on coastal cities like Alexandria, Venice or Algiers, among others.

Coastal tourism, an important component of the GDP of numerous Mediterranean economies, will also be affected. Increased efforts are therefore needed to adapt to these inevitable changes, mitigate the drivers of change and increase resilience.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Adaptation options to sea level rise include nature-based solutions, such as beach nourishment, dune restoration or ecosystem-based adaptation and restoration of low-lying coasts, lagoons, estuaries and deltas. However, this type of protection is not achievable in urbanized areas where engineering, through breakwaters, dykes and other types of barriers, despite their residual impacts on coastal ecosystems, imposes itself as a solution.

Furthermore, as ecosystems are closely interconnected, holistic and pan-Mediterranean considerations are needed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of the climate and environmental changes on the Mediterranean societies, to provide a realistic chance of mitigating their adverse effects,

and to consider preferably nature-based adaptation solutions. Climate and environmental adaptation and resilience policies must take into account other issues such as justice, gender equality, fight against poverty, social inclusion and redistribution (Ali et al., 2022).

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY



We invite all who have a stake in the future of the Mediterranean coast to join our efforts to spread the message — coastal residents must become the main ambassadors of climate action!

Without mitigation and without achieving the goals of the Paris agreement on climate change (2015), it will be very difficult to adapt. Perhaps retreating inland will be the only option for many of our coasts. This is why resilience is only possible if we act responsibly towards the climate in harmony with nature.

Come aboard become the ambassador of the resilience of the Mediterranean coasts. Act for the climate, act for nature!