PROGRAMME

The gathering of Mediterranean stakeholders for a common voice at the World Ocean Summit: 'The voice of the Mediterranean'

How can a new cultural relationship between sea and land be rebuilt for greater territorial resilience?

UNOC Workshop No. 4 - Muğla
5-6 May 2025

In the Mediterranean culture, the relationship between land and sea is based on an ambivalence between a utilitarian function (ports, fisheries, mobility, exchange of goods and ideas) that has made this territory a world power, and a fear of the dangers of the sea as related by Homer in the *Odyssey*. Climate change linked to the pursuit of the same development model could lead to the height of this ambivalence; overuse of coastal space and, at the same time, an increase in threats (rising sea levels, submersion, erosion, salinisation of groundwater, etc.). The solutions are of course technical and economic, but perhaps above all cultural in the renewal of imagination.

The aim of the day is to understand the political issues at stake in the link between culture and the resilience of coastal areas. Three levels of interpellation could be developed:

- *Alert culture, including in the dimension of scientific culture*
- *Projection culture, for collective proposals for desirable futures*
- *Memory culture, to acknowledge and preserve traditions and heritage that are useful for resilience and/or threatened by the risks of climate change.*

Then to feed operational reflection on how to strengthen art and culture for a more fruitful relationship between land and sea, built on new symbolism and planning and development practices. A concluding debate will focus on making a few commitments or even concrete proposals.

1. Monday 5 May

AFTERNOON

- 2:30 pm: Signing of the Bastia – Muğla cultural agreement

- 4:00 – 4:30 pm: Welcome address and political introduction

Gonca Köksal, Mayor of Mentese

Ahmet Aras, Mayor and President of the Muğla Metropolitan Municipality

Agnès Rampal, Vice-President of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, Deputy Mayor of Nice and President of AViTeM

- **5:00 – 6.30 pm: Roundtable – Pioneer territories: a new land-sea agreement**

Muğla, Nice Côte d'Azur and the Cap Corse marine park have initiated a process of protecting the seabed linked to a coastal development strategy. These experiments make it possible to consider a land-sea continuity that can adapt to climate changes while reducing the risks and impacts of storms, rising sea levels, erosion and even preserving marine biodiversity. How are these experiments going?

Facilitation : Fabien Flori, Deputy Director General of the French Institute in Turkey

- **Madeleine Cancemi**, Director of the Cap Corse Marine Park.
- **Fabrice Bernard**, European and International Delegate at the Conservatoire du Littoral, Treasurer of the MedFund trust.
- **Aurore Asso** (online), Municipal and Metropolitan Councillor and sub-delegate for the marine protected area, the sea and ecology at the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, Agricultural Engineer.
- **Cécile Sabourault**, Vice-President for International Development and Europe at the University of Nice Côte d'Azur, Director of the ECOSEAS laboratory and pilot of the FEAMPA scientific project of the marine park in connection with Muğla.

Beyond legislative and regulatory measures and technical and technological solutions, what roles do culture, networking and the capacity for exchange play in this transition process?

- **6.30 pm: Screening and discussion of the documentary *East to West*** by **Mert Gökalp**, photographer and marine biologist.

He captured images of the statues being submerged as part of the BEAP (Blue Exile Art Project). Mert Gökalp also recently made a bilingual film (French/Turkish) comparing marine environmental protection systems in Bodrum and Corsica.

The high-definition version of the documentary (38 min) will be shown and used as the subject of a debate.

2. Tuesday 6 May

MORNING

- **9:00 – 9:30 am: Official opening**

Gonca Köksal, Mayor of Mentese

Ahmet Aras, Mayor and President of the Muğla Metropolitan Municipality

Nadia Fanton, Consul General of France in Istanbul

Agnès Rampal, Vice-President of the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, Deputy Mayor of Nice and President of AViTeM

- **9:50 – 10:10 am Interview**

Agnès LANGEVINE, President of the Conservatoire du Littoral.

Interview conducted by Fabien FLORI, Deputy Director General of the IFT

– 10.10 – 10.20 : Coffee break –

- **10:20 – 11.40 am: Round table 1**

How, in the Mediterranean, can art and culture be powerful drivers of the connection between land and sea for the benefit of a greater resilience?

Since the 2010s, the concept of the Anthropocene has become central to artistic reflections, with a real awareness of the interconnection between all forms of life, particularly marine and terrestrial ecosystems, an issue that has quickly been integrated into creations. Similarly, cultural actors involved in dissemination and mediation with the public play a major role in raising citizens' awareness. The evolution towards a demanding art form that resonates with socio-environmental emergencies is already at work. Hélène Guenin, former Director of MOMAC in Nice[1], emphasised the role of artists as whistleblowers, in particular through their capacity to astonish, to produce original narratives, and to shift the focus away from dominant ways of thinking.

First question: what are the cultural ties between Mediterranean people and the sea? Second question: what could be a new step in shaping a Mediterranean cultural policy that bridges land and sea? In summary: what commitments, strategies, and priority projects are needed to initiate a cultural transformation that fosters a renewed and fruitful relationship between Mediterranean societies and their Sea?

Facilitation : Marie Baduel, AViTeM

- **Müjde Unustasi**, Director of the Culture and Art Department of Arkas Holding, which includes 6 museums.
- **Selen Cambazoglu**, Director of the Bodrum Maritime Museum, promoter of BEAP (Blue Exile Art Project), a project co-financed this year by the AFD's Métis fund and the French Embassy. BEAP is a project that aims to draw the attention of the general public to the impact of superyachts on Posidonia seagrass meadows in a country where no protection is in place.
- **Cécile Sabourault**, Vice-President for International Development and Europe at the University of Nice Côte d'Azur and Director of the ECOSEAS laboratory. The construction of a multidisciplinary scientific culture around the sea.
- **Aurore Asso** (online), Municipal and Metropolitan Councillor and sub-delegate for the marine protected area, the sea and ecology at the Nice Côte d'Azur Metropolis, Agricultural Engineer.
- **Vincent Giovannoni**, maritime and art anthropologist, chief curator at MUCEM, head of the Performing Arts department.

[1] Forum Ouvert de Nice 28-29 November 2024 – organised by AViTeM as part of the decentralised cooperation project 'Cultivated Territories'.

- **Maud Le Floch** (online), Director of Polau – Art and Urbanism Hub**.** Fostering cross-pollination between cultural actors and territorial stakeholders. Exploring culture as a catalyst for urban planning and territorial development – and vice versa.

– 11.30 – 11.45 am : Coffee break –

- **11.55 am – 12.30 pm: Collective synthesis**

What commitments and first projects should be proposed to public stakeholders – state, local authorities – or associations to make art and culture powerful connectors between land and sea?

- **12.30 – 1.00 pm: Diving into the depths of the Turkish seas**

Murat Draman, Underwater photographer, specialist in invasive species.

– Lunch on site –

AFTERNOON

- **2.30 – 3:00 pm: Discussion with Pierre Savelli, Mayor of Bastia, and Ahmet Aras, Mayor and President of the Muğla Metropolitan Municipality**

Moderator: Fabien Flori, Deputy Director General of the French Institute in Turkey

- Reception of Mayor Ahmet Aras with the Bodrum School Ship docking in Bastia on its way to UNOC3 (4-6 June)
- The intention to submit a joint cooperation project with three cultural axes related to the environment:

1. Exchange of expertise on the valorisation (field: gastronomic culture) of invasive species that have disrupted Turkish marine ecosystems, destabilised fishing, tourism, and sociocultural habits: What lessons can be drawn from the Turkish experience?
2. The role of women in environmental advocacy: Creating cross-profiles of engaged women between Muğla and Corsica in connection with the UNESCO Chair "Mediterranean Futures" (field: photography, sociology).
3. Debate and writing residency on the consequences of mass tourism in Corsica and Muğla: Jérôme Ferrari's book *"Nord Sentinelle"* will be published in Turkish, and he has agreed to visit Muğla. Conversely, Elise has proposed Doğan Duru, a Muğla-based author/composer, who will be hosted in Corsica (a video meeting with Jérôme took place), and the topic has been discussed with Jean-Claude Acquaviva from A Filetta (fields: literature, music).

- **3.00 – 3.30 pm: Moving beyond the Anthropocene with the Mediterranean community**

Sébastien Quenot, Head of the UNESCO Chair *Futures in the Mediterranean – Identities, Cultures, Heritage-Making Processes*, CNRS / Università di Corsica Pasquale Paoli

- **3:30 – 5:00 pm: Round table 2: The preservation and enhancement of tangible and intangible heritage as an active resource for a Mediterranean future**

The coastline is an area rich in both tangible and intangible cultural assets, some of which are submerged. This heritage is greatly weakened by the risks associated with the sea, but also by new uses and users of the coastline. Faced with rising water levels, but also certain harmful uses such as over-tourism, part of this heritage, particularly the ancient material heritage or our intangible heritage of hospitality, could disappear. Yet this heritage is unique and non-renewable!

How can we talk about resilience while abandoning the traces of a past that forms the basis of our Mediterranean identity? Or while profoundly altering our Mediterranean landscape?

The purpose of this second round table is to understand the political issues and the regulatory and heritage means of conservation, protection and valorisation of the Mediterranean coastline in the contemporary space in order to better define the perspectives and the possible commitments and priority projects to be carried in 'the Voice of the Mediterranean'.

First question, knowledge - achievements and perspectives

What knowledge do we have today of the Mediterranean coastal heritage? Knowledge will be considered in three ways: data collection, analysis and synthesis, particularly through inventories, and finally mediation between scientists and those involved in safeguarding/promoting the heritage.

Second question, safeguarding and promotion

This second question raises fundamentally different issues depending on the objects. On the one hand, it is a question of preserving, physically or in memory, a heritage that is at risk of disappearing or that has already disappeared, in the case of submerged heritage. On the other hand, it is a question, as in the case of landscape heritage, of creating visibility and producing a collective alert and intelligence in relation to the issues of resilience.

Facilitation : Fabien Flori (Institut français de Turquie) and Marie Baduel (AViTeM).

- **Gizem Akdogan**, Secretary General of Akdeniz Koruma Derneği – Manager of the Gökova Marine Protected Area
- **Bouzid Sabeg** (online), Director of COPAM
- **Galip Gür**, Vice-President of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Association
- **Vincent Giovannoni***, The* history of the Mediterranean people and their relationship with the sea. Could climate change and the associated risks bring about a new phase?
- **Fabrice Bernard**, European and International Delegate at the Conservatoire du Littoral, Treasurer of the MedFund trust.

- **5.00 pm – 6:00 pm: Workshops-Synthesis of round tables**

Workshop 1: **How, in the Mediterranean, can art and culture be powerful drivers of the connection between land and sea for the benefit of greater resilience?**

What commitments, strategies, and projects can be proposed to public actors—whether State authorities, local governments, or associations—to strengthen a Mediterranean culture of resilient relations between land and sea?

***Moderator: Fidel BERBER**, Honorary Consul of France in Muğla*
***Fabien FLORI**, Deputy Director General of the French Institute in Turkey*
*With **Sevinç ÜNAL**, AVITeM*

Workshop 2: **The preservation and promotion of material and immaterial heritage as an active resource for a future centred on the issue of resilience**

What commitments, strategies, and projects can be proposed to public actors—whether State authorities, local governments, or associations—to strengthen a heritage policy for the benefit of a greater territorial resilience?

***Moderator: Selim YIGIT**, Vice-President of the Turkish Archaeologists Association, President of the Muğla Archaeologists Association*
***Marie BADUEL**, Deputy Director General of AVITeM*
*With **Serena PENNETTI**, Mediterranean Conservation Association (AKD)*

Closing remarks and call to action: The Symposium of Mediterranean Cities and Territories of Culture and Ecology – The proposal for joining a Common Manifesto and Project Dynamics. **François-Xavier Leger**, General Director of AViTeM, Ambassador. **Ahmet Aras**, Mayor and President of the Muğla Metropolitan Municipality