



MED O MED

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST



CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Landscapes are complex systems where cultural relationships are developed in an ecological context. Thus, cultural landscapes, which are the result of the joint action between human beings and nature, have become one of the key elements in the common heritage of mankind, where the mutual and reciprocal influence nature-culture can be recognized.

They display specific techniques for a feasible land use as well as a particular spiritual relationship with nature. Furthermore, the existence of traditional forms of land use supports biodiversity, historic landscapes preservation is therefore a way to ensure biological and landscape diversity and it is also an important tool for sustainable development.

Cultural landscapes are crucial in the search for a common language, they assist dialogue and rapprochement of cultures and they are a gathering space that promotes communication and peace.

Over the centuries, the Mediterranean Arc has been one of these spaces, cradle of civilizations which in turn created landscapes that have never heard of races or ideologies, but have been, rather, about something much deeper.

They reflect tangible and intangible values of different peoples who have wisely made the most of all resources provided by nature, on which they based their beliefs, knowledge, habits, daily practices and common uses.

These cultural expressions turned the Mediterranean area into a geography loaded with meanings and provided with a particular identity.

The Mediterranean landscape has been deeply affected by intensive human activity, which has transformed it often times into a paradigm and an iconic representation of various cultures.

Among these, the Islamic culture has generated a wide variety of forms of land use and the multiple intangible values associated to, (and originated by), them.

Some of these solutions have become not only aesthetic and artistic points of reference, but also exceptional patterns of ecological balance, sympathetic preservation and sustainable development.



MED-O-MED PROGRAMME

The “**MED-O-MED, Cultural Landscapes of the Mediterranean and Middle East**” Programme, conceived and coordinated by the **Islamic Culture Foundation**, intends to acknowledge, preserve and reinforce these cultural landscapes, heritage of a secular past, and turn them into a long-term platform for research and development within their own local communities.

Hence, **MED-O-MED** stands as a point of reference and as an active engine for scientific, cultural and economic growth.

The Programme attempts to promote a better knowledge of Muslim culture and especially of its cultural heritage and its landscapes, through its identification and registration, research, protection, preservation, assessment, promotion and management, setting up for this purpose an alliance plan with international organizations and local, regional, national and international entities.

One of the values that **MED-O-MED** wants to promote is the attitude of respect held by the Islamic civilization towards nature, as a historic example of a society focused on fair and balanced scientific research and development.

As a result, **MED-O-MED** intends to reinforce the new infrastructures and projects being carried out by Muslim countries in frequently ad-

verse economic and political contexts, burdened with a significant lack of resources.

MED-O-MED's courses of action focus mainly on knowledge and research provided by associated experts, and training and financial growth as a proactive way to fight against poverty.

The Programme counts on the expertise of scientists, universities, research centers, foundations and other institutions that operate in the academic, business, administrative and governmental fields.

MED-O-MED relies on the basic assumption that knowledge and education are a powerful engine for development; it is therefore necessary to promote strategies and dynamic preservation projects, which acknowledge traditions and genetic sovereignty and take responsibility for the next generations.

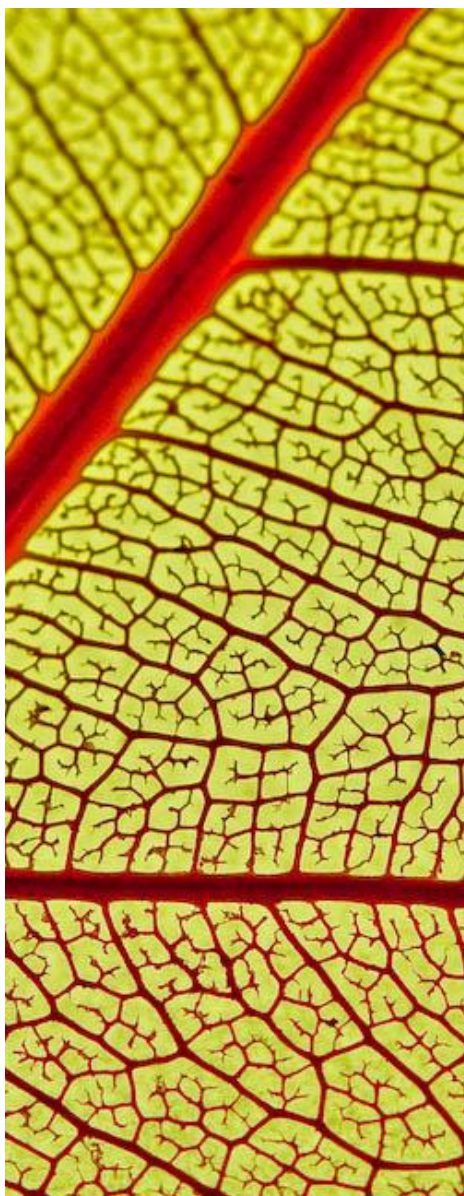
Four courses of action have been established for these purposes:

- **Network of Botanic Gardens**
- **Cultural Heritage**
- **Sustainable Development**
- **Education and Training**



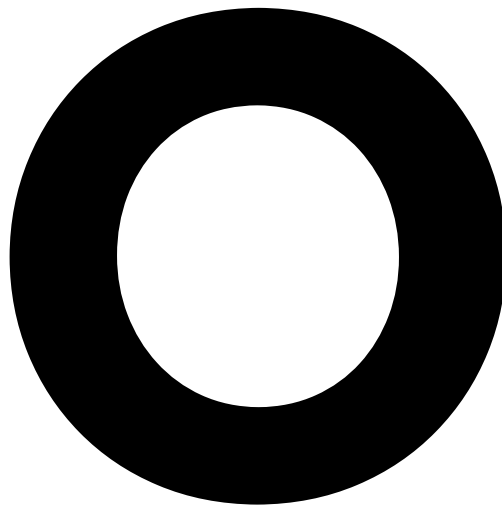
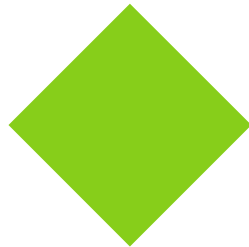
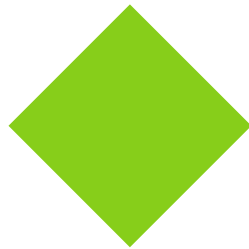
LINES OF ACTION

The Programme is aimed mainly at the Muslim region bordering the Mediterranean Sea on the South and the East and at the European countries located on the North and East Coasts, where cultural traditions of Islamic origin are still prevalent and display a steady willingness for cooperation and international solidarity.



MED-O-MED PROPOSES

- 1 Recovering and spreading knowledge on agropecuarian issues which have been present in the Islamic civilization throughout History.
- 2 Being part of a network covering the Mediterranean area which promotes the exchange of information and experiences between organizations and individuals on both coasts.
- 3 Supporting the implementation of new projects by ensuring the highest level of local participation.
- 4 Various ways of partnership consisting of consulting, funding and partners search.
- 5 Updated scientific information both on the situation in the South Mediterranean area and its progress in improving protection of the environment.
- 6 Developing communication and corporate fundraising strategies as well as helping to expand the international scope of the organizations which are part of the **MED-O-MED** Programme.
- 7 Participation in seminars, workshops, training events and programmes.
- 8 Availability of a wide array of material and human resources.





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