



TUNISIA



## Pilot Area1: Sousse-Monastir



Nevertheless, the expansion of touristic and transport infrastructures in particular, as well as a significant anthropogenic activity in the area led to environment and ecological disturbances, such as erosion and water quality degradation, which could seriously damage its typical features. A sustainable approach would surely have great effects on maintaining touristic potentials of the region.

Tourism sector in Sousse for example has experienced potential development, this sector had noticeable influence on the urban landscape. Sousse is indeed the second tourist center after Djerba with its 129 hotels, and a capacity of 44,868 beds, which represents 21% of the overall bed capacity in the country.

Thus, touristic rapid growth, especially regarding hotel building construction in coastal zone created a visual as well as a material obstacle between the hinterland and the sea.

As a result, the coastal landscape lost its original identity and was replaced by concrete masses that hide all kinds of authenticity that characterize Sousse, in a total detachment between local population, their tradition and historic potential and tourist area.

The PA1 namely Sousse-Monastir, is located at the eastern sector of Tunisia. The coastal zone of the Pilot Area extends to about 120 km length. This PA is subdivided into two administrative regions: Sousse and Monastir. Agriculture, fishing and industry are the main activities in this pilot area.

This region is also known by high tourism activity. However, due to its seasonality, this sector presents a source of nuisance. The zone suffers mainly from erosion due to the shoreline littoralization and pollution related to waste discharge.

The region has as well many important hospital complexes and Education-Research centres: university centres, cultural and leisure spaces. A dynamic and diversified economy was developed, based mainly on industries manufacturing (especially textile and clothing), agriculture, fishing and tourism.

In addition, Sousse-Monastir area represents an important tourist hub; most of touristic elements in the Center-East part of Tunisia are concentrated in this area.

Furthermore, the traditions of the region in terms of craftwork, particularly the transformation of available and characteristic materials in the region such as Moknine pottery and artisanal textiles have largely contributed to the promotion of tourism in the area, and could be better considered for developing sustainable tourism.



Views from El Kantaoui seaside resort.

Sustainable tourism can improve the tourist offer and resolve the current constraints and limits of cultural depletion and natural resources oppressions. Besides, it promotes long-term environment management in order to meet economic and social needs, preserve cultural integrity as well as ecological balances.

Partner Involved:



Local actors and stakeholders to be involved:

- Local Government
- Local Community
- Tourism operators and professionals
- Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment (MEAT);
- National Sanitation Office (ONAS)
- Agency for Coastal Protection and Planning (APAL)

### Main objectives of the pilot

In the pilot area, an Action Plan compliant with Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (MSP-ICZM) principles for sustainable tourism will be development. The Action Plan will deal, in particular, with anthropogenic issues.



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