

# Establishment of the first waste monitoring and management plan for the fishing port of Sfax

**Sfax** is the leading fishing port in Tunisia. The importance of the economic activity in the fishing port of Sfax is accompanied by a high level of pollution of the coastline and the surrounding area of the port.

In a process facilitated by MedCités, the **Municipality of Sfax** worked with the Sfax Fishing Port to define and initiate a plan to monitor marine waste and improve waste management in the **Sfax Fishing Port**.



Source : [sfaxinternational.org](http://sfaxinternational.org)

## CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

- Managing waste from land-based activities and marine sources in the fishing port of Sfax
- Encouraging cooperation between stakeholders
- Involve civil society organizations
- Involve professionals and the private sector
- Contribute to solving the environmental and waste management problems of the city of Sfax

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Establishment and testing of a waste monitoring plan for the fishing port of Sfax
- Establishment of a plan for the sustainable management of waste from land-based activities and marine sources for the fishing port of Sfax
- Establish a long-term mechanism for waste management in the fishing port of Sfax
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and decision-makers in Sfax to monitor and take action to improve waste prevention and management in the port of Sfax



Project type

Waste management



Funding

European Union – ENI CBC  
Med programme  
Approximately 15.000€



Partnership

City of Sfax, MedCités  
,APIP (Fishing Port of  
Sfax), ANGeD, ORES



Dates

October -  
November 2023



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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Sfax is the leading fishing port in Tunisia.** Fishing ports in Tunisia are managed by the Fishing Ports and Facilities Agency (Agence des Ports et des Installations de Pêche – APIP). The importance of the economic activity in the fishing port of Sfax is accompanied by a high level of pollution of the coastline (basin and quays) and the surrounding area of the port.

Next to the fishing port of Sfax, there is a municipal landfill known as the "port landfill", which was originally intended for construction and demolition waste and was converted into a landfill for domestic waste after the city's waste crisis (following the closure of the El Gonna landfill in Agareb in November 2021). The landfill is used by the port to dispose of all types of waste generated by port activities.

The “ENhancing Socio-Ecological RESilience in Mediterranean coastal areas” (ENSERES) project is a capitalisation project funded by the European Union's ENI CBC Med programme. It focuses on the transfer, replication and scaling up of successful and effective Integrated Coastal Zone Management and ecosystem-based management tools and practices developed from past and ongoing initiatives in the project pilot areas (including Sfax/Gulf of Gabes).



## IMPACTS AND RESULTS

- Establishment of a waste monitoring plan for the fishing port of Sfax
- Establishment of a plan for the sustainable management of waste from land-based activities and marine sources for the fishing port of Sfax
- Creation of a waste management committee for the fishing port of Sfax
- Improving dialogue and cooperation between local communities and government institutions
- Involving civil society organizations in tackling environmental problems in Sfax
- Leading to the creation of a public-private partnership
- Contribute to solving the environmental and waste management problems of the city of Sfax
- Raise awareness among fishers and other port users and stakeholders of the problem of marine pollution and litter



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Against this background, the stakeholders in **Sfax** have selected, in a participatory manner, the tools best suited to respond to local priorities. In this context, the Municipality of Sfax and MedCities have chosen to implement, through a mentoring process, the “Marine litter prevention and abatement measures” tool developed by the Interreg MED PlasticBustersMPAs project in the fishing port of Sfax.

This process allowed :

- Establish a regular monitoring plan, and test it with all the stakeholders involved, to identify the problems of marine waste in the port of Sfax (typology, quantity, and origin).
- Identify the most appropriate measures to prevent and reduce marine pollution and develop the implementation process.
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and decision-makers in Sfax to monitor, prevent, and manage waste in the port of Sfax.

The **monitoring plan and recommendations** to improve waste management in the port of Sfax were prepared by MedCities experts in close consultation with the Municipality of Sfax and APIP, and with the involvement of other stakeholders such as the Ministry of the Environment, the National Environmental Protection Agency (Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement - ANPE), the National Waste Management Agency (Agence Nationale de Gestion des Déchets - ANGED), the Coastal Protection and Management Agency (Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral - APAL), the Sfax Regional Ecological Observatory association (Observatoire Régional Écologique de Sfax - ORES) and many others.

## RELATED CONTENT

### CASES

- [Houmt Souk manages bio-waste in touristic areas](#)
- [Socio-economic inclusion through plastic waste valorisation in Nabeul, Tunisia](#)
- [Building capacity on integrated solid waste management in the urban community of Al Fayhaa](#)

### TOOLS

- [Marine litter prevention and abatement measures](#)
- [Waste management catalogue](#)
- [Med4ZeroWaste & circular economy course](#)



## Campagne de collecte de déchets au port de pêche de Sfax

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Several stakeholders benefited from a study visit to the port of Barcelona, where they were able to interact with their peers and benefit from best practices that could feed into the development of the waste monitoring and management plan for the fishing port of Sfax.

Through a specific sub-grant, the ORES association contributed to this initiative by carrying out several activities aimed at combating marine pollution in the port of Sfax. These activities included an environmental diagnostic, workshops, and **training sessions, preventive measures, awareness raising, and clean-up campaigns.**

In the port of Sfax, a co-management committee was set up with representatives from all the companies operating in the area, fishermen, government institutions and environmental organisations. The committee oversaw the development of the monitoring and management plan.

This activity culminated in the signing of an agreement between the Sfax Municipality and the APIP for the preparation of a feasibility study to determine the appropriate legal structure for the creation of a waste management company (start-up) at the APIP. The ANGeD is also involved in this project, in particular through the implementation of a programme to clean up the port by means of the “41 mechanism” (contribution to the financing of a small or medium-sized enterprise to be created by a university graduate), in close coordination with APIP.



Etude diagnostique de la pollution marine dans le port de pêche de Sfax

[ENSERES project web](#); [Commune Sfax](#); [Apip](#)

## PUBLICATIONS & REFERENCES

- [Guide for the monitoring of marine waste and improving waste management in the fishing port of Sfax](#)
- [Video - Summary of the ORES activities](#)
- [Video - Marine litter collection robot prototype](#)
- [Photo album - ORES activities closing workshop](#)
- [Photo album - Clean-up campaign](#)
- [Photo album - Awareness raising campaign for fishers](#)
- [Photo album - Clean-up and awareness](#)