



# Impact Report Summary 2017-2022



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## The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture

*Cultural landscapes have shaped the natural environment of the Mediterranean over millennia, and they still have a key role to play in a sustainable future. They produce food, fuel and fibre; and they can provide additional ecosystem services, enhance biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Conversely, the abandonment of cultural land use practices can result in a massive loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with serious consequences for local communities and the region more broadly.*



Cultural landscapes are complex systems where evolving socio-cultural patterns, cultural values, governance structures and natural elements are interconnected.

The Alliance for Mediterranean Nature & Culture (AMNC) is a group of 13 NGOs working together to build awareness and knowledge of cultural landscapes, advocate for the traditional practices that maintain them, and sustain the benefits they provide for biodiversity and local livelihoods.

This document provides a short summary of the work of the AMNC partners from 2017-2022, and the impacts they have successfully achieved through their local and regional projects.



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The AMNC's work has been funded by MAVA as part of its Outcome Action Plan on promoting sustainable land-use practices.

# The project sites

AMNC partners have been working since 2017 on eight sites across the Mediterranean. These sites take in a range of landscapes and cultural practices:

## Project landscapes

- Mountains
- Lowland forests
- Islands

## Cultural practices

- Use of locally adapted animal breeds
- Crop diversification
- Collection of medicinal plants
- Use of local crop varieties
- Redileo
- Use of dry stone walls
- Agricultural terraces
- Maintenance of semi-natural elements
- Community grazing
- Complementary crop-livestock farming
- Pastoralism

The AMNC promotes improvement by enabling conditions such as favourable governance frameworks, supportive value chains and greater market access for products from cultural landscapes, and promotes greater public, decision-maker and consumer awareness on the value of sustainable production systems. Its overall aim has been to increase the surface area of the selected cultural landscapes and halt the loss of beneficial land use practices, showing the role of both in supporting the three pillars of sustainability:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Economic resilience
- Social sustainability

Unified strategies across these pillars can lead to decreased land abandonment, decreased conversion to intensive agriculture, and reduced loss of biodiversity, among others.

AMNC partners created a Theory of Change to guide their work, with strategies, outcomes and indicators leading to impacts across each of the three pillars of sustainability. While activities vary depending on the context of each project, they all leverage the following core strategies:



### STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS

Promote participatory management through traditional and indigenous communities



### ADVOCATING POLICIES TO SUPPORT CULTURAL PRACTICES/LANDSCAPES

Make the case at local, national and international levels to ensure long-term impact



### BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Mobilize funds and broaden networks of partners



### STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Help build resilient communities and celebrate local knowledge

## AMNC STRATEGIES



### ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE

Exchange methodologies and innovative ideas between the pilot sites



### SCALING UP THE APPROACH

Gather and spread knowledge at Mediterranean and international level



### ENSURING ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

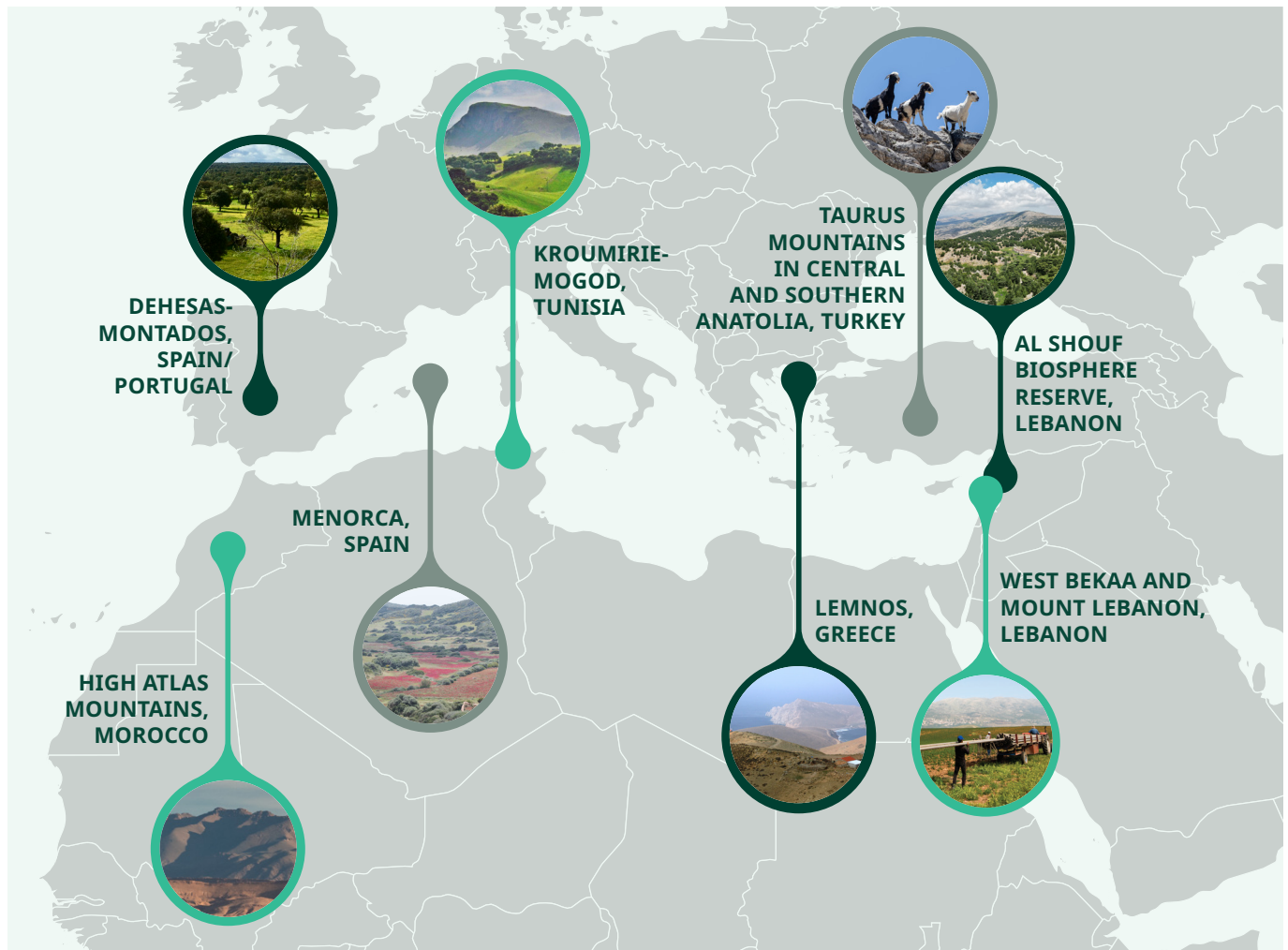
Promote sustainable production and consumption, certification, food security, agriculture, economy, etc.



### COMMUNICATING

Explain and disseminate results to demonstrate the importance of cultural landscapes

# Summary



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The AMNC has generated a wide impact across biodiversity conservation, governance, and the economic, social and political sustainability of cultural landscapes. It has built local practitioners' and community members' capacities and skills, enhanced the management of cultural practices, strengthened supportive policies and land governance systems, and promoted the ecological and economic value of cultural practices with decision-makers. Collectively, the project partners have done a great deal to increase cultural landscape knowledge and understanding, and spread best practices across the Mediterranean as a whole.

Through a range of activities – seed banking, enrichment planting, monitoring, etc. -its pilot projects have made significant contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. The AMNCs support for the commercialization of local cultural products has helped to secure livelihoods, boost inclusive green growth, and reduce poverty and inequality.

The cultural landscapes across which the AMNC works promote ecosystem services while protecting biodiversity and increasing well-being. The work carried out at the pilot sites between 2017-2022 has shown that this unique part of Mediterranean heritage still has an important role to play today and far into the future.



# Biodiversity conservation

## Improved knowledge of the benefits of cultural practices for biodiversity



**115**  
**98**

115 bioindicator species monitored in 98 sites

## 10 PUBLICATIONS



on correlation between cultural practices and biodiversity

## Improved seed diversity and enhanced community livelihoods



**500,000+**  
plants of **80+**  
species grown in nurseries



**2,000+**  
households benefited

## Reduction of biodiversity loss and increase of crop yield



**127** native crop varieties



**43** livestock breeds



**142** new species recorded

## Enhanced conservation of cultural landscapes

**46,000+**



local people implement cultural practices

# Economic and social sustainability

## Strengthened sustainable land-based economies



**21**  
pilot economic mechanisms for maintaining cultural practices



**6**  
new infrastructures generating incomes for socio-economic development

## Increased skills and capacities in cultural practices



**200+**  
workshops, trainings and seminars conducted



**3,000+**  
local practitioners



**2,000+**  
students trained

## Improved socio-economic conditions of local communities



**97**  
selected local products enhanced and commercialized



**5**  
certification and labelling systems

## Enhanced management of cultural practices



**5**  
local alliances (Land Stewardship Programme)



**123**  
land stewardship agreements developed with local farmers