

From Africa to the Mediterranean: Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient Ports and Coasts

19 November 2026 | 12.45–13.45
Mediterranean Pavilion, COP31 Türkiye, Antalya

Port of Antalya, Türkiye

Nature-Based Solutions Innovation Accelerator (NBS-IA)

Africa and the wider Mediterranean are connected through shared coastal ecosystems, maritime routes and logistics networks that are increasingly exposed to erosion, flooding, sea-level rise and other climate-related risks. **Ports and coastal infrastructure** are therefore a strategic entry point for strengthening resilience, protecting economic activity and advancing regional cooperation.

The **Nature-Based Solutions Innovation Accelerator (NBS-IA)**, led by the **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)**, in collaboration with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, supports the integration of Nature-based Solutions into infrastructure planning and investment. Its Africa component focuses on **ports and logistics** and has generated a pipeline of demonstration projects intended to provide practical and replicable approaches to resilient port infrastructure.

The side event *From Africa to the Mediterranean: Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient Ports and Coasts* will connect lessons from the NBS-IA Africa pipeline with the challenges and opportunities of the wider Mediterranean. The event will also **showcase selected pilot projects under NBS-IA** and stimulate a broader discussion on **how locally tested solutions can inform regional approaches, attract climate finance and be replicated** across Mediterranean ports and coastal areas.

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E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

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Visit the NBS-IA webpage

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Moderator: Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) / TA Sogesid	
12:45	**Opening Remarks** • **Alessandro Guerri,** Director General, Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)
12:55	**Panel Discussion: From Pilots to Regional Solutions for Resilient Ports and Coasts** *Moderated panel on how practical nature-based and hybrid solutions, including NBS-IA projects in Africa, can strengthen port and coastal resilience across Africa and the Mediterranean, and what is needed to replicate and finance them.* • **Ruth Zugman Do Coutto**, Deputy Director Climate Change Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • **Giovanni Satta**, Associate Professor in Economics and Business Management, University of Genoa • **Rozalina Petrova**, Policy Adviser for Green Diplomacy and Multilateralism, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
13:30	**Q&A**
13:40	**Closing Remarks and Way Forward** • **Alessandra Fidanza,** Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) / TA Sogesid

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Learn more about NBS-IA