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# Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation


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The ASTI series welcomes external proposals and requests to publish **edited books, contributed volumes, monographs, and textbooks**. With the commitment to the aforementioned instructions and policy.

The ASTI series has now been accepted for Scopus (September 2020). All content published in this series will start appearing on the Scopus site in early 2021.

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Federico Camerin · Antonio Luis Pérez ·  
Francesca Gagliardi · Pir Mohammad  
Editors

# Sustainable Landscapes Across the Mediterranean (CrossMED 2024—V1)

Interdisciplinary Approaches in Cultural  
Landscape Management in the Built  
Environment

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*The Editors warmly thank all the Reviewers who have contributed their authority to the double-blind review process, to ensure the quality of this publication.*

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## Preface

Welcome to the proceedings of the international conference *Landscapes Across the Mediterranean (CrossMED)*, held from December 11 to 13, 2024, at the Università degli Studi Mediterranea, Italy. This event brought together scholars, researchers, and professionals from various disciplines with the shared goal of examining the complex challenges and opportunities that shape the cultural and natural landscapes of the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean, cradle of civilizations and a historical crossroads of cultures, is currently undergoing profound transformations driven by phenomena such as climate change, urban pressure, biodiversity loss, and the fragmentation of heritage. In this context, CrossMED has provided a platform for sharing experiences, theoretical approaches, and innovative strategies of intervention.

The contributions gathered in these proceedings reflect the richness and diversity of perspectives that characterize the conference. Through a range of methodologies and scales of analysis, the authors reflect on the balance between conservation and transformation, nature and culture, tradition and innovation, proposing viable paths toward the sustainable development of landscapes.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants, speakers, and collaborators who made this event possible. Their commitment to research and territorial engagement has been essential to the success of the conference.

We hope that these proceedings will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, professionals, and policymakers, and that they will encourage future collaborations in the search for sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the Mediterranean region.

Granada, Spain

Antonio Luis Pérez

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## Acknowledgments

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the authors and reviewers whose dedication and academic excellence have been essential to the production of these proceedings of the *Landscapes Across the Mediterranean (CrossMED)* conference. Their contributions have significantly enriched the interdisciplinary discourse on Mediterranean landscapes and the contemporary challenges related to their sustainability, management, and preservation.

We extend special thanks to IEREK for organizing the event and to the Università degli Studi Mediterranea for hosting this important academic gathering, providing a valuable space for the exchange of ideas, research, and experiences.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of our partner institutions for their invaluable collaboration. Thanks to this collective effort, this volume reflects a shared commitment to the protection and study of Mediterranean landscape heritage through an innovative, critical, and sustainable lens.

Federico Camerin participated as co-editor in the frame of the research project “*Las propiedades militares en Europa: Estrategias de Regeneración y sus efectos sobre Procesos de Producción Socio-Espaciales*” (Ramón y Cajal Grant RYC2022-037235-I) funded by the *Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades*, la *Agencia Estatal de Investigación* through the *Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica, Técnica y de Innovación 2021–2023*, and co-funded by the ESF+.

Antonio Luis Pérez

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## A Word from the Editors

A foundation for sustainable development and a springboard for scholarly research on the Mediterranean regions, this edited volume demonstrates the growing interest to contribute to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016–2025, which establishes an overarching policy framework for all stakeholders to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, sub-regional, national, and local levels in the Mediterranean region. The diverse contributions open up new perspectives on the many ways in which contemporary society acts and plan on the Mediterranean toward landscape changing needs, and cutting-edge methodologies to shape its future.

The 10 sections demonstrate the necessity to deal with the MSSD functions of adapting international commitments to align with the specific regional conditions that prevail and to guide national strategies and stimulate regional cooperation in order to achieve sustainable development objectives.

The contributions also promote the MSSD Vision of a prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, strong involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation, solidarity, equity, and participatory governance.

A common element of all the contributions is the urgency to contribute to the MSSD rationale, which pushes to investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development. The MSSD is based on the principle that economic growth needs to be harmonized with the protection of natural resources, and to distribute the welfare dividend of the development process to all society. The investment in the environment is considered as the best way to secure long-term, sustainable job creation and socio-economic development, and as an essential process for the achievement of long-term development for the present and future generations.

We hope that the readers will truly enjoy this edited book.

Federico Camerin

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## Introduction

The Mediterranean Region has historically functioned as a cultural crossroads, and it is currently attracting increasing international attention due to its rich history, unique biodiversity, and socio-economic complexity. These elements are fueling the debate on how to address current and future challenges in the region and beyond.

The inaugural edition of the International Conference “Landscapes Across the Mediterranean (CrossMED)” in 2024 aspires to underscore sustainable development issues pertaining to the cultural landscape in the Mediterranean Region.

The cultural landscape of the Mediterranean Region is the result of the historical combination of the work of man and nature. This combination is an essential part of the European heritage and an indispensable element for the quality of life of human communities.

In a global context that is increasingly aware of the need to address complex challenges, the conference aims to provide a multidisciplinary platform characterized by the breadth and depth of its interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach, attracting the interest and participation of scholars, experts, and academics from different fields of expertise to explore, share, and develop innovative and sustainable ideas that will make a significant contribution to understanding this important issue.

This approach is predicated on the recognition that environmental, social, and economic challenges require an integrated and in-depth understanding, exploring the deep links between cultural history, the natural environment, and social dynamics, and outlining a comprehensive framework that can guide sustainable policies and innovative practices. The conference will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of Mediterranean landscapes as interconnected systems involving both humans and the environment, through the contributions of various academic disciplines.

The challenge of reconciling development and conservation necessitates a multifaceted and synergistic approach that involves knowledge sharing and in-depth study of issues related to social sciences, environmental sciences, architecture, economics, information technology, infrastructure, energy, environment, agro-forestry, and numerous other related sectors. This approach is capable of offering different and complete perspectives on issues that require an integrated understanding of cultural, environmental, and economic dynamics.

The objective of the conference is to establish strategies that can inform policies and practices aimed at preserving the cultural and natural richness of Mediterranean landscapes. This has been achieved through the presentation of innovative research, the exchange of practical experiences, and active collaboration divided in 10 sections: 1. Landscape Conservation, Enhancement and Management; 2. Infrastructure and Landscape Integration; 3. Architecture and Built Environment; 4. Natural Resources Management; 5. Climate Change and Resilient Landscapes; 6. Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Preservation; 7. Sustainable Tourism and Recreation in Landscapes; 8. Sustainable Tourism and Recreation in Landscapes; 9. Innovative Technologies for Landscape Design and Management; 10. Innovative Technologies for Landscape Design and Management.

The overarching goal is to create a future in which development and conservation can coexist harmoniously, allowing Mediterranean landscapes to flourish for generations to come. More specifically, the inaugural edition of the International Conference “Landscapes Across the

Mediterranean (CrossMED)” establishes connections between scholars, experts, and academics by promoting collaboration and the exchange of ideas, in the attempt to provide:

- **Multidisciplinary Innovation:** to establish a forum for the presentation and discussion of innovative research and interdisciplinary projects that contribute to the understanding and resolution of contemporary challenges in Mediterranean landscapes.
- **The Progression of Science:** to promote scientific progress through the presentation of high-quality research results, and second, to stimulate critical reflection and collaboration between the various disciplines involved.
- **Sustainable Development:** to explore sustainable solutions for the management and conservation of Mediterranean landscapes, with a focus on the social, economic, and environmental aspects that are pertinent to this endeavor.
- **Training and Education:** to furnish training and educational opportunities through workshops, interactive sessions, and seminars led by internationally renowned experts.

Federico Camerin