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**ADEME and its partners awarded the Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Awards at the "Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation: experience and good practices" conference on Tuesday July 27th 2021. The event's Big Winner was Algeria's National Sanitation Office for its innovative water treatment plant with filters in the Tamacine area.**

The Mediterranean region is at high risk from climate change as proven by the latest science publications<sup>1</sup>. By the end of the century, the average temperature in the Mediterranean should rise by up to 5.6°C, rainfall should drop by 20% and sea levels should rise by an average of up to 90cm. The Mediterranean, the climate change "hot spot", will therefore be exposed to new stress in terms of accessing resources, which causes a great deal of unrest.

With this in mind, the Mediterranean regions are launching projects to manage disaster risks, adapt infrastructures, protect ecosystems and design public policies to make them more resilient.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Awards, partnered by the Union for the Mediterranean and Plan Bleu, aim to put the spotlight on these committed regions and, most importantly, showcase concrete adaptation projects fuelled by public and private figures (councils, charities, universities, businesses etc.) in urban, rural or coastal areas in countries surrounded by the Mediterranean.

### 3 Mediterranean finalists

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<sup>1</sup> 2100 forecast - RCP 8.5 scenario - MedECC (2020) *Climate and Environmental Change in the Mediterranean Basin - Current Situation and Risks for the Future. First Mediterranean Assessment Report* [Cramer, W., Guiot, J., Marini, K. (eds.)] Union for the Mediterranean, Plan Bleu, UNEP/MAP, Marseille, France, 600pp, in press

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Over 50 projects were submitted by 16 Mediterranean countries with over half from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and 2/3 from public bodies. There were 3 winners out of the 50 projects:

- The **"Resilient facilities and infrastructure"** category award and **Big Winner** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ceremony went to **Algeria's National Sanitation Office** for its innovative water treatment plant with filters in the Tamacine area which helps combat desertification, protect water resources and support local development. The pilot project has already been rolled out in two other communities and twenty new projects are in the pipeline. This sustainable, low-cost, low-energy and easy to use solution can be replicated in many rural areas with a dry and arid climate to protect water resources and increase cover crop.
- The **"Preservation of ecosystems and nature-based solutions"** award went to the **National Technical University of Athens, in Greece**, which launched the HYDROUSA project in 2018 to experiment with innovative, regenerative and circular solutions applied to water loops in the Mediterranean region, especially in the islands, where a lack of freshwater is a major socio-economic issue. The model is easy to replicate and can be rolled out to 25 new projects throughout the Mediterranean basin.
- The **"Designing, implementing and monitoring public policies"** award went to the **Lisbon Metropolitan Area, in Portugal**, for its climate adaptation strategy based on promoting a culture of adaptation throughout all the key sectors in the area and creating partnerships between its 18 towns and villages. This strategy has high replication potential in other metropolitan areas.

The 3 winners will be invited to the stage at an international conference and their projects will be showcased on our social media and dedicated communication outlets. The Big Winner will also be invited to the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held between September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2021 in Marseille. They will also receive VIP support from the awards' partners (study visits, meetings with potential technical partners etc.).

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