

Panel E

The Concept of Natural Resources as Heritage for Humanity

Friday 6 July – 17:30-18:45

The UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities is a consultation and policy development process that culminates in an event every two years. The Forum, conceived as a political process, is led by the City of Chefchaouen with the support of a core group of pilot intermediary cities.

As preparation for the first World Forum of Intermediary Cities, a series of Regional Forums were conducted. During these regional gatherings, discussions led to the identification of challenges and opportunities for intermediary cities as key actors for sustainable development and their particular role in the localization of the different global agendas (Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework, New Urban Agenda).

A series of key topics and recommendations were identified, and provide the inputs to be discussed in the different thematic tables. The key outputs of this sessions will be included in the Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World.

70% of the inhabitants of the earth in 2030 will be urban. It is our duty to look after and preserve the quality of life of all urban and rural dwellers for the coming years and preserve our natural environment. The question of bringing together natural resources with heritage (tangible and non-tangible), together with keeping alive the planet's nature, is key, but under which conditions and with which instruments. How can we enable decision makers and inhabitants to take responsibility for this phenomenon? Local and regional governments need to play their role in this issue.

The question of bringing together natural resources and heritage is also a question of intermediation, since it gathers the concept of heritage (tangible and non-tangible) with the idea of keeping alive the planet as a resource for tomorrow's humanity, and nature as something that should be taken care of and transmitted to future generations.

Possible Framing Questions and Recommendations

1. A climate and investment agenda for intermediary cities

- Investment in the Climate Agenda from the municipalities and national government: short-, medium- and long-term.
- Investing in the Climate Agenda in I-Cities has a multi-scale impact.

PROPOSALS:

- *Study and generate a specific concept for the 'Climate Intermediary City' able to be multiplied to a mass of cities, to unlock the potential of sustainability for the planet.*

2. Bringing together natural resources, heritage and intermediation

- What value can we give to nature, to invest in 'non-exploitable': How can we calculate this cost? And its performance?
- How can we finance measures related to this heritage?

PROPOSALS:

- *Generate a study that can calculate the investment of municipalities in the Climate Agenda to understand the benefit of funds or a banking system of investing in intermediary cities.*
- *Generate a fund for Climate Agenda investment and support in intermediary cities.*

3. Protecting and managing natural resources

- The unequivocal management of resources by local governments in dialogue with regional and national governments.

PROPOSALS:

- *Protecting natural resources by making them 'classified' sites, even if those are productive natural resources.*
- *Developing the concept of "Intermediary Cities Green Funds", which allows to benefit from funds to support natural biodiversity, the treatment of endemic plants and transparency in the management of natural resources.*