

# Towards a greener and more sustainable city: Measures to reinforce the green urban corridor

## Green corridor and sustainable development

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to balance the economic, social, and environmental requirements of present and future generations. They are based on integrated approaches that promote the conservation of natural resources, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the promotion of social inclusion and the creation of resilient economies. In this sense, strengthening the green corridor is crucial given the current challenges, not only for environmental but also for socio-economic reasons. In Algeria and Tunisia, local initiatives are being taken to improve biodiversity in urban areas.

The regional project “City-to-City Cooperation Maghreb-Germany” (KWT II), commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global gGmbH, from March 2020 to February 2024. Among other activities, the regional project supported project partnerships between German and Maghreb cities. The good practices highlighted in this factsheet have been developed in Algeria by the municipality of Mostaganem, through a special BMZ COVID-19 fund, and in Tunisia by the respective partner cities Tozeur and Geestland, Gabès and Hannover, Kairouan and Darmstadt, Midoun and Fürth, El Guettar and Böblingen, as well as Kasserine and München. These practices will be scaled up as part of the follow-up regional project “Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb”, running from March 2024 to February 2027.



### Measure to reinforce the urban green corridor in Mostaganem (Algeria)

In Algeria, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the National Urban Planning Agency (ANURB) of the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning, and the City.

KWT II supported the implementation of a resilience measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the municipality of Mostaganem, in cooperation with neighbourhood committees, environmental associations in the wilaya of Mostaganem and primary schools. This activity involved the development of two green spaces in the “Chemouma” and “Hai Es Salem” neighbourhoods, as well as a public garden called “Al Arsa”. The aim was to enhance the urban biodiversity, increase the ratio of green spaces per inhabitant, and make access to nature more democratic for citizens, thus improving their living conditions and environmental health. The initiative also aimed to make the city of Mostaganem more resilient to the effects of urban heat islands and climate change.



### Tree planting in Tunisian municipalities

In Tunisia, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate-General of External Relations and Decentralised International Cooperation within the Ministry of the Interior.

Tunisia celebrates the National Tree Day every second Sunday in November. The Tunisian partner municipalities of KWT II have initiated an annual tree-planting campaign to commemorate this day. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries provides trees for planting through the Regional Commissariats for Agricultural Development (RCAD). The aim is to tackle climate change and promote sustainable urban development, with the participation of citizens and organized civil society. Friendship trees were planted in Tunisian and German partner cities, symbolizing the strengthening of relations for sustainable development. In Tozeur, the German partner town of Geestland provided a financial support of €10,000 for a tree planting project in the heart of the oasis.



Left: National tree day 2021 - One of the 150 rubber trees freshly planted in Tozeur.

Right: Overview of the newly renovated Al Arsa public garden on 10 February 2022 - trees planted and street furniture installed, including benches and waste bins.



## Approaches and actions

The methodological approach of the measure to reinforce the urban green corridor in Mostaganem included three phases, namely (diagram 01):

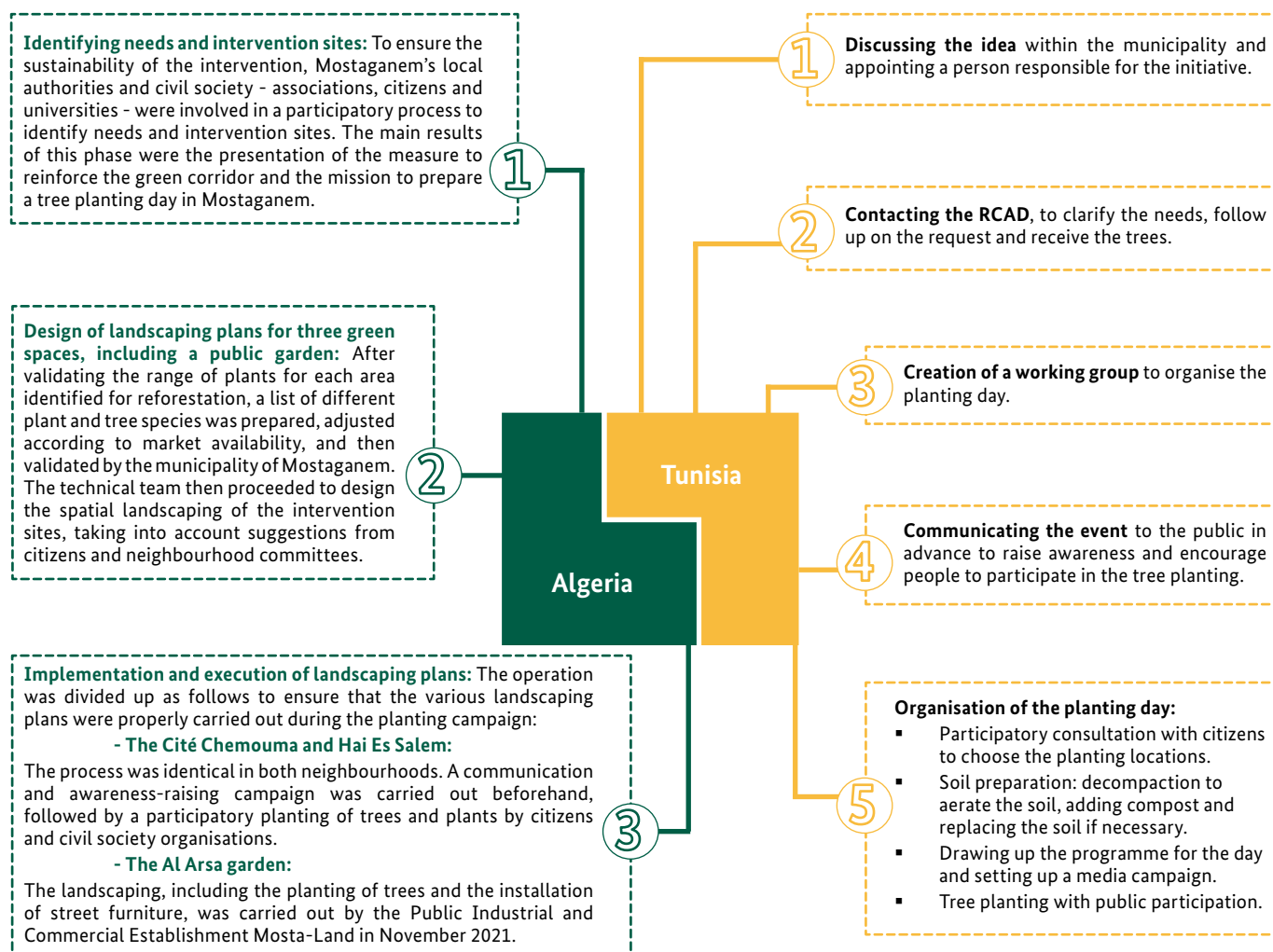


Diagram 01: Methodological approach. © GIZ



## Achievements

The measure to reinforce the urban green corridor of Mostaganem led to the following results (diagram 02):

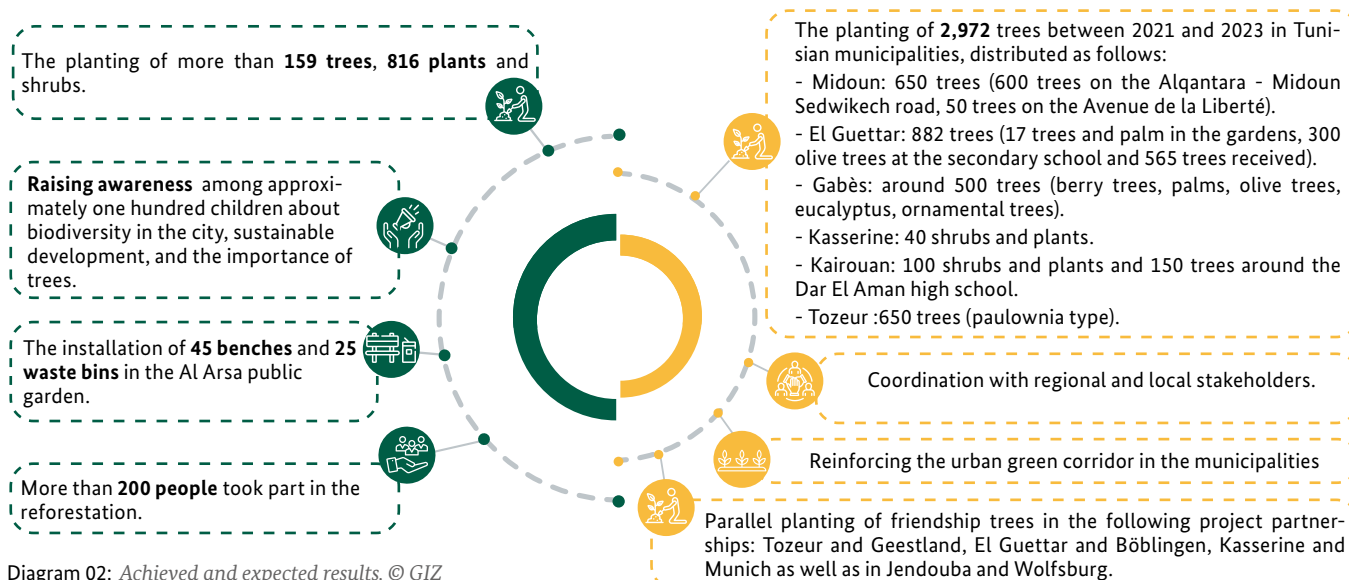


Diagram 02: Achieved and expected results. © GIZ



## Challenges

Many challenges were encountered in Mostaganem and in the Tunisian municipalities, requiring specific solutions (diagram 03):

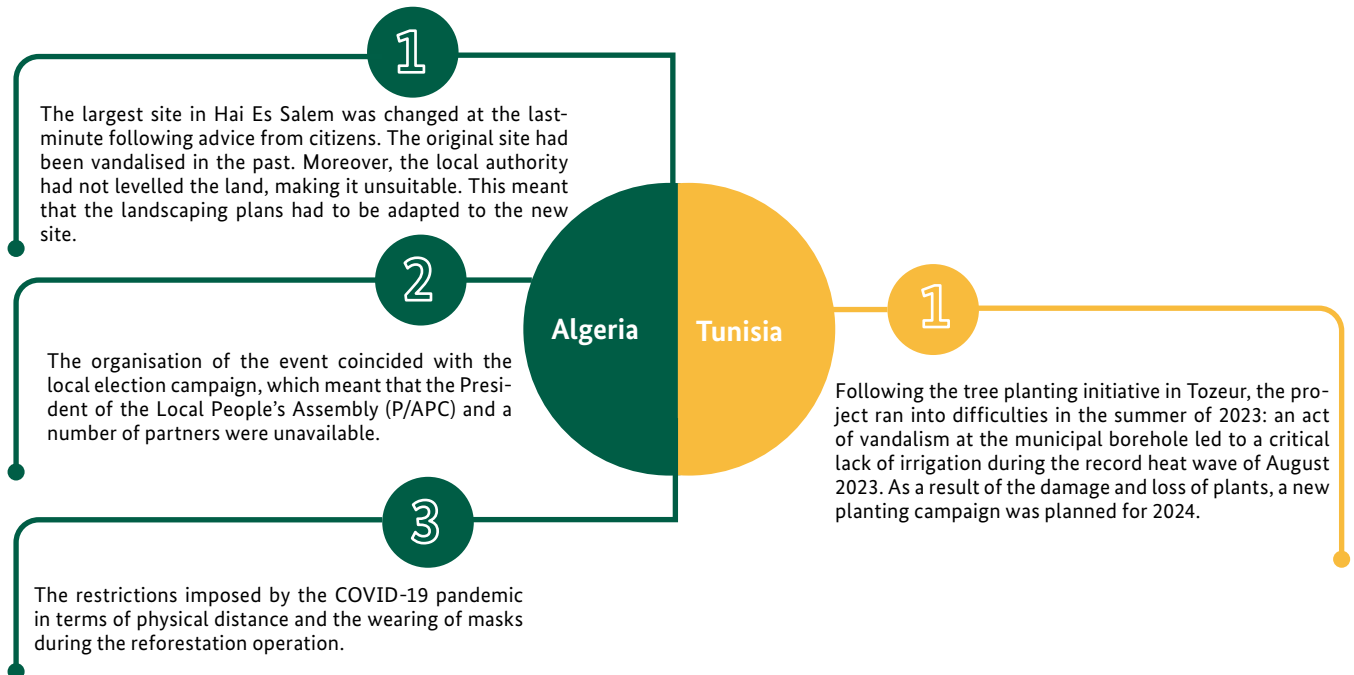


Diagram 03: *Challenges overcome.* © GIZ



## Innovative aspects and strengths

The measure to reinforce the urban green corridor in Algeria and Tunisia stood out for its strengths, reflecting a commitment to sustainable development and citizen participation (diagram 04):

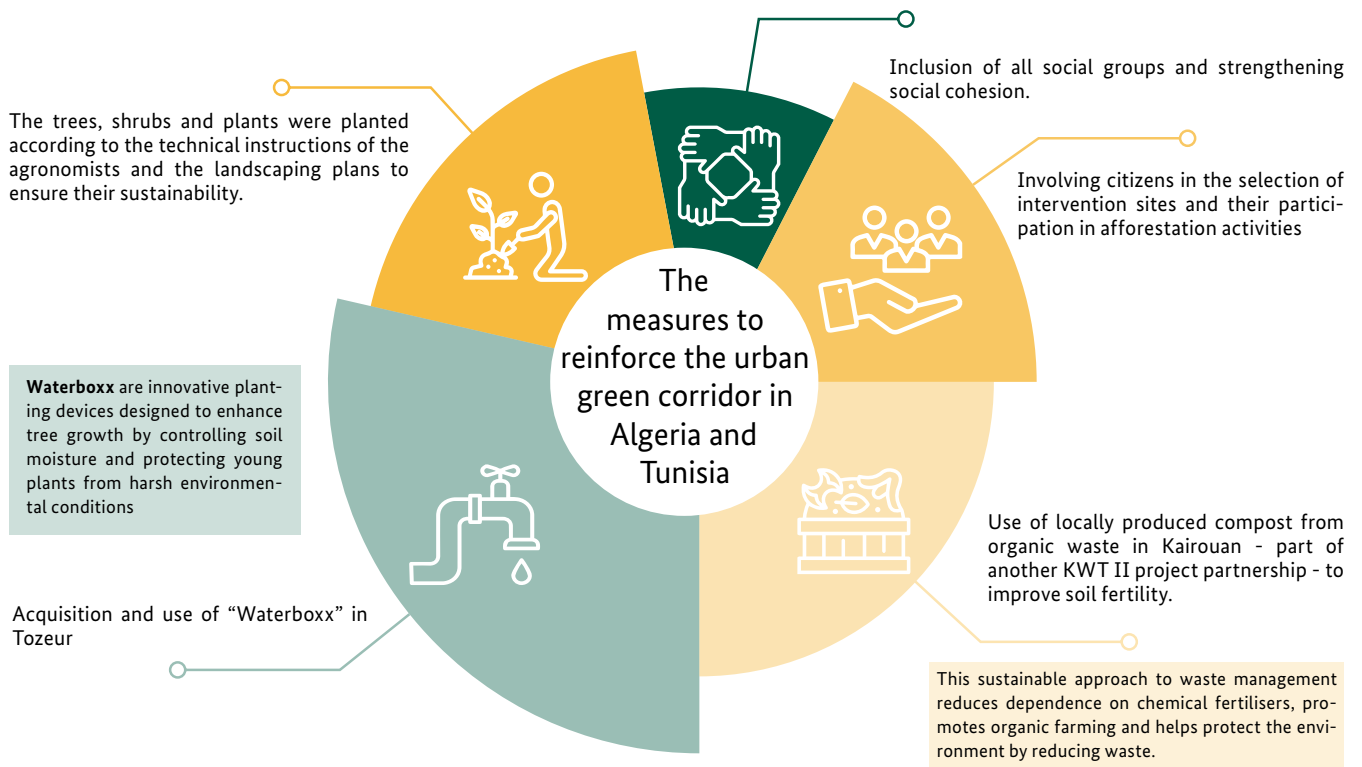


Diagram 04: *Innovative aspects and strengths.* © GIZ



Left: Overview of the landscaping plan for the Al Arsa public garden in Mostaganem.

Right: Tree-planting activity in Tozeur with German partners from the town of Geestland, on 06 June 2022.

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## Best practices, lessons learnt and advice

Several lessons have been learnt, best practices and advice identified from the experiences of the Algerian and Tunisian cities, which should be considered when implementing similar projects:



### Adopting a participatory and inclusive approach

The active involvement of civil society organisations - neighbourhood committees and associations - as well as all citizens - men, women, children and young people - in both the selection of sites and the afforestation operations has proved to be a key factor in the success and sustainability of the measures.

### Adopting innovative awareness-raising and communication strategies to promote the environment

In Algeria, the municipality of Mostaganem used various communication channels to mobilise citizens, including social networks, local radio and posters. Working with neighbourhood committees and a number of environmental associations, the municipality developed a course on the importance of trees for urban life and the protection of biodiversity to mark the national tree day. In addition, the Imam of the mosque in the Hai Es Salem neighbourhood used his Friday sermon to raise awareness and mobilise citizens for the operation.



In Tunisia, the use of local events, such as the celebration of the national tree day, has created a sense of ownership and commitment within the community. These events are used as an opportunity to raise public awareness of other related issues. For example, during the celebration of the national tree day on 12 November 2023 in Kairouan, a major awareness raising event was held at the same time to inform citizens about the products generated by composting in the Kairouan pilot composting unit, which has been operational since 2020 as part of the KWT project. In addition, the use of social networks as a means of communicating with the public has increased their involvement.



### Strengthening partnerships with local and international players

This has increased the impact of the actions undertaken and encouraged the exchange of expertise. By organising symbolic events such as the watering of the friendship tree in Jendouba and simultaneous plantings in Tozeur and Geestland, El Guettar and Böblingen, and Kasserine and Munich, the municipalities have raised public awareness and encouraged people to take an active part in protecting the environment.

Diagram 05: Best practices, lessons learnt and advice. © GIZ

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