

# SMILO 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2021



**Kerkennah  
Tunisia**  
23–24–25  
November 2021

6<sup>ème</sup> Conférence Annuelle  
de l'association SMILO

*“Kerkennah, the largest of the SMILO small islands, hosted the Annual Conference this year. We had the feeling that the other islands of the network, often coming from very far, had come to put themselves under the protective wings of the “bigger sister”, where several actions are set up in the five SMILO gateways for sustainable islands: biodiversity, landscapes, water, energy, waste. Kerkennah is also made up of several islands and islets, and it illustrates well the progression in time and space of SMILO, which tends more and more towards an “archipelago way of thinking”, with the implementation of combined operations beyond the borders of land and sea. Our island Babel is getting enriched by several new territories, from Tanzania to Norway via New Caledonia; perhaps we will one day have to think of inventing a new language that will allow the inhabitants – of Gorée-Senegal and Kihnu-Estonia, for example – to understand each other without going through a continental language? However, in the current context of exchanges about SMILO, the islands already speak the same language. They overcame and repaired the confusion of Babel to sing all together the paean of these small lands surrounded by salt water.”*

**Maxime Prodromidès**, President of SMILO

**23 November**

## Agenda of the General Assembly

- A morning on the islands
- SMILO's projects
- A year with the communities
- Perspectives
- Budget

The **Moral Report**, voted in assembly, is available on the [webpage of the event](#).

14 islands presented their actions and needs: Bolama, Jeta and Orango (Guinea Bissau), Cholé (Tanzania), Culatra (Portugal), Frioul and Ilur (France), Gorée and Sipo (Senegal), Ibo (Mozambique), Kerkennah (Tunisia), Kihnu (Estonia), Principe (São Tome and Principe) and Ventotene (Italy).

Presentation of activities led by SMILO. The **Activity Report**, voted in assembly, is [available here](#).

## Perspectives

SMILO's objectives for 2030:

- **More islands:** towards more geographical or thematic synergies between islands
- **More members:** towards a change of scale
- Still **more concrete actions** supported
- **More funding** with less constraint: balance between public, private and own funding
- **More services to members:** internal reinforcement (expertise and technical partnerships)
- **Communicate on members' actions**

### Agenda of 2022 :

- Gorée #1: Communication training – **04/2022**
  - Gorée #2: Training in glass recycling and jewelry creation in local value chains – **09/2022**
  - Training on natural areas co-management – **03/2022, Tunisia**
  - Sustainable agriculture – *ISOS+, Sardinia*
  - International workshop: sanitation and reuse of wastewater: practical guide – *Saint-Honorat, 10/2022*
  - Draft of a Strategy for the preservation of biodiversity on small Mediterranean islands – *Mediterranean Island Collective, 02/2022*
  - World Island Networks: final report – **03/2022**
  - AFD Rest'île: project management NGOs' capacity building – *online and field trainings (Gorée, Principe, Nosy Hara, Brava, nearby islands)*
  - Celebrate Islands 9: video contest – **05/2022**
  - 3 international workshops on sustainable tourism in *Saint-Honorat (FR), Brownsea (UK) – 02/2022, Mausund (NO) & Zlarin (HR) – 04/2022*
- Communication**

New SMILO videos: Principe, Gorée, Zlarin, Kerkennah, association movie...

4 new episodes of the podcast "Once Upon an Island – Green tourism"

The full Powerpoint presentation is available on the [webpage of the event](#).

### Budget

The **Financial Report**, voted in assembly, is [available here](#).

### **14:00 – Opening ceremony of the Annual Conference**

Mr. Hedi Chebili, General Director of the Environment and Quality of Life, on behalf of Ms. Leila Chikhaoui Mehdaoui, Minister of the Environment, thanks the association for choosing to organise its conference in Kerkennah. He recalled Tunisia's commitment to *"support the efforts of the international community in everything that could bring the peoples of the whole world together on the causes of nature protection and sustainable development"*.

### **14:00-17:30 - Participative workshop SMILO's Strategic Principles**

SMILO's Strategic Principles were written in 2017 as the association was being founded. They define sustainability guidelines for small islands in the 5 themes covered by SMILO: Biodiversity, Landscapes, Water and Sanitation, Energy and Waste. After 5 years, we wanted to develop these Strategic Principles so that they are in line with the reality on the ground of small islands, and the environmental challenges they face.

- ➔ Participative workshop to collect feedbacks and proposals for development. The Strategic Principles will be updated in 2022 by the Secretariat, and approved by all members of SMILO.

## 24 November

### **A day in Kerkennah**

Discovery of the island and different projects led by the Municipality and various stakeholders of the sustainable development of Kerkennah, with the support of SMILO and its partners:

- Kraten fishing port: meeting with fishermen

- Kerkennah dyke and presentation of the project of marine protected area in Kerkennah
- Solar LED street lighting in Ennakhla (SMILO/FFEM)
- Restored public cisterns (SMILO/FFEM)
- Meeting at the Municipality: presentation of projects on women craftsmanship (Anna Lindh Foundation, Municipality of Kerkennah), on alternatives to single use plastics made in date palm tree (BEMED - AJSK and ENIS) and Celebrate Islands 2021 (AJSK).
- Plastic waste management centre: (FPA2 – Municipality of Kerkennah/SMILO/Earthwake).

25 November

### Participative workshops

- Strategy for the preservation of biodiversity on small Mediterranean islands, in the framework of the Mediterranean Islands Collective, implying SMILO as project owner;
- Exchanges between islands to highlight perspectives of trainings, and share their specific needs in terms of sustainable development. Several ideas for future shared trainings were expressed:
  - **Energy**: construction of improved stoves to reduce wood consumption while cooking, renovation of structures, trainings of fishermen on mechanic and maintain of motorboats.
  - **Biodiversity**: creation of a protected area and a management plan implying local communities, invasive species management, biodiversity inventory, mangrove protection, coral reefs restoration, expertise on mooring zones, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, oyster farming and shells recovery.
  - **Water**: desalinisation and rainwater recovery/storage.
  - **Waste**: compost, waste recovery, return of waste to the mainland.
  - **Other economic activities**: promotion and diversification of craftsmanship, ecotourism.
  - **Communication and education** to the environment.
  - **Heritage**: advocacy on how to spread the concept of places to be respected, and promotion of local traditions.

## Evening for the rewarding of the “Label in Progress” to Kerkennah

23 November 2021 – Hotel El Kastil, Kerkennah

Mr. Maxime Prodromidès, President of SMILO, gives to Mr. Moncef Fgaier, President of the Municipal Council of Kerkennah and representative of the Insular Committee, the “Label in Progress” SMILO to reward the archipelago and the different partners working daily for a more sustainable and inclusive development of their territory.

**Congratulations!**



We warmly thank the [Association Jeunes Science Kerkennah \(AJSK\)](#) and the travel agency [Hippocampe Travel](#) for their precious support during the entire Conference.

