



WADI GAZA

Core Areas

The Wadi Gaza Natural Park and Greenway foresees the existence of five core areas, also defined as "activity nodes", in which recreational, tourism and educational activities can take place.



Planning Principles

The Blue and Green Infrastructure Approach (BGI) was adopted as the planning principle for the development of Wadi Gaza. BGI is based upon the principles of Low Impact Development, Sustainable Drainage Systems and Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Social (Red) infrastructure was also added to incorporate the recreational, social and tourist aspects of the plan.

The Blue Infrastructure Elements are the Following

The Wadi Gaza itself, the Coastal Wetland, the Embankments (existing and proposed), the Central Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Three Lagoons and the Storm Water Network.

The Green Infrastructure Elements are the Following

The Wadi Gaza Natural Area, the Sand dunes (existing), the Agricultural areas, the Green belt and the Green urban parks, located in each Core Area.

The Red Infrastructure Elements are the Following

- Wadi Gaza Trail (WGT)
- Core Areas
- Water-Front Recreational Area
- Eco-Tourism Area
- Archaeological Parks

NATURAL PARK AND GREENWAY



Introduction to Wadi Gaza

Wadi Gaza is the largest coastal wetland in the State of Palestine. With its vibrant and diverse biological environment, it is considered as one of the most important in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin. This natural reserve is home to at least 154 terrestrial vertebrate species, most notably birds. It also supports a diverse flora, with at least 70 different known species. The Wadi was designated a natural reserve in the year 2000, and is the only protected area in the Gaza Strip.

Protecting and developing Wadi Gaza project is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. But it is not just about the environment. The site will also serve as a recreational area for the people of Gaza and will improve the livelihoods of residents in surrounding towns through the development of recreational facilities and the creation of job opportunities.

The opportunity to implement the Wadi Gaza Coastal Wetland Conservation and Development project would not have been possible without the support of the Government of Norway through the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP).

Natural Heritage

Wadi Gaza represents a unique habitat supporting a rich biodiversity. However, the Wadi is under threat from many environmental pressures: in particular from sewage generated by urban development within the catchment area, and the use of the Wadi's basin as a solid waste dumping site.

In 2012, the Permanent Delegation of Palestine to UNESCO submitted a request to designate Wadi Gaza as a World Natural Heritage Reserve in recognition of its unique importance. As a result of this action, UNESCO has now included Wadi Gaza on the Tentative List. This decision will preserve the wetland and its ecosystem and will help stop its demise.

Science and Education

Being a unique coastal wetland ecosystem in the State of Palestine, Wadi Gaza is a natural laboratory that will enhance research in different disciplines of science.

Recreation

The wetland ecosystem of Wadi Gaza can provide an important recreational facility if well-managed. For decades, many visitors to the wetland found it to be a source of inspiration for the creative arts, such as writing, painting or photography. Other people come simply to enjoy the beauty of the landscape and the natural habitat.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage sites are essential to the understanding of an area. The Gaza Strip has an eventful past, stretching over very long periods of civilization. It has been on the cross-roads between ancient empires, and between Europe and Asia. Consequently, archaeological sites are many and remnants plentiful. They represent various archaeological stages since the Pharaonic period.

Project Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



Project Challenges

Wadi Gaza Master Plan addresses a multitude of challenges

	Flood protection		Water pollution and poor water quality
	Water scarcity		Biodiversity loss
	Uncontrolled urban sprawl		Abandoned dirt and construction debris

