

# JORDAN / AQABA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (ASEZA)

ASEZA is the financially and administratively autonomous institution responsible for the management, regulation, and the development of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone (ASEZ).



## INTENTIONS / EXPECTATIONS

ASEZA has expressed the necessity to federate local actors and learn from other experiences in order to gain influence in this field through MEDSEATIES project. The aim is to bring better understanding for coastal zone management.

## PRESENTATION

ASEZA was inaugurated in 2001 as an initiative by the Jordanian government to ensure that Aqaba's commercial and cultural prominence develops to be a regional hub for trade, tourism, and culture. ASEZA is a service - oriented organization offering one - stop assistance covering all investment needs. ASEZA offers integrated services and assistance to every concerned business and ensures all governing laws and regulations of ASEZ are made public.

In 2002, ASEZA adopted a comprehensive Master Plan that encompasses development activities in the Zone for the promotion of port, urban, tourist, commercial, academic and other investment sectors. Developed planning already covers many special areas such as:

- The Port Areas that includes the Main Port, the Container Port and the Southern Industrial Port. According to the Master Plan, a common location- the Main Port- is established to merge the three existing port area activities into one expanded entertainment, residential, hotel and cruises service center.
- The Coral Coastal Zone that is undergoing a wide residential, hotel and entertainment facilities construction process for the development of an advanced community resort, with respect to relative beach and coral reef protection requirements.

## ROLE AND VALUE ADDED IN THE PROJECT

ASEZA is the local authority responsible for the activities implemented in Aqaba territory, with the support of the University of Jordan-Aqaba.

As such, ASEZA role is particularly important in the implementation of the Governance and Capacities Work Packages. Within the transversal work packages, ASEZA also participates to the general implementation of the project and will disseminate project results in its own territory, using the tools produced for the whole partnership.

ASEZA is responsible for the organisation of the closing public conference at the end of the project.

ASEZA is the key unitary agency with strong legal backing for environment protection in the Environment regulation and the adoption of a number of policies, including the zero discharge policy. ASEZA is the regulatory regime including the environment clearance requirement for new industries and activities ongoing inspection and audit requirements.

In 1997 a 7 Km length of shoreline was designated as a protected marine reserve. The Aqaba Marine Park was established to conserve and manage the natural near-shore marine environment of Aqaba south coast with its rich biodiversity, while allowing for certain tourist uses at sustainable levels.



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