



Regional Workshop for Members of Parliaments, Media and Stakeholders on Climate Change Adaptation in the Mediterranean Coastal Area

5-6 November 2015
Athens, Greece

Purpose of the Regional Workshop:

- to inform Members of Parliament (MPs) on on-going and upcoming international and Mediterranean initiatives and processes on Climate Variability and Change and to shape messages with emphasis on the Coastal Areas, including towards COP21 (Paris, December 2015) and Barcelona COP (Athens, February 2016);
- to inform on regional programmes and activities on Climate Variability and Change as well as their linkages with Water, Coastal and Environment programmes, and to identify ways for more active engagement of MPs;
- to share experiences and views among MPs, Media and other stakeholders on how MPs can enhance their role and contribution in shaping policy agendas and promoting priority action at regional and national level, with emphasis on Climate Variability and Change, Education for Sustainable Development, Water-Food-Energy-Environment-Climate Nexus, etc.

Context of the Regional Workshop:

The event is organised by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) within the framework of the GEF MAP/UNEP ClimVar & ICZM Project and the GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), in collaboration with the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE). The GEF MAP/UNEP ClimVar & ICZM Project (full title: *Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean*) is jointly implemented by UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC and GWP-Med.

Participants:

- Members of Parliaments from Mediterranean countries
- Journalists
- Representatives of Civil Society Organisations
- Representatives of International and Regional Institutions and Organisations

The Workshop:

- is organised back-to-back with the Final Conference of the GEF MAP/UNEP MedPartnership Programme, 4 November 2015
- will join the Celebration of the 40 Years of UNEP MAP, evening of 4 November 2015
- will join the Round Table on 'The Challenge of Adapting to Climate Change and COP 21', co-organised with the Institut Français de Grèce and the Committee for the Study of Climate Change Impacts of the Bank of Greece, evening of 5 November 2015



Concept Note

1. The Mediterranean Coastal Area: a major climate variability and change hotspot

According to recent studies including the Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate variability and change would have adverse impacts in the Mediterranean. Phenomena such as sea level rise, recurrent and persistent droughts, overall decrease in precipitation, followed by river-flow decrease, salt water intrusion and salinisation of ground water, more intense rainfall over fewer days causing floods and soil erosion, serious long-term decrease of soil moisture and productivity accelerating desertification, are expected to intensify significantly.

Such phenomena directly affect freshwater quantity and quality in the Region posing, among other things, serious threats to human health. In addition, important economic sectors might be affected: (i) agricultural production, threatening food-security and causing loss of economic revenues from decreased yields; (ii) fisheries, due to changes in ocean circulation, increase of water temperature and acidification and considerable changes in coastal habitats and ecosystems; (iii) energy security, including decreased hydropower potential and *vice-versa* high energy requirements for water related processes including pumping, desalination, cooling, etc.; (iv) tourism, with reduction of inflows and loss of revenues due to inferior services caused by less water availability; (v) infrastructure development with increased costs and risks for planning and investment.

How will climate variability & change affect the coastal zone?

Serious impacts are expected to emerge in the Mediterranean from rise in the sea level resulting, inter alia, in salt water intrusion in coastal aquifers, in loss of inhabitable and arable land as well as in serious alterations of natural habitats in a region already experiencing increasing developmental pressures in the coastal areas.

Such phenomena not only impact the natural environment and biodiversity of the Region threatening important wetlands and habitats that safeguard the overall ecological balance but also the provision of ecosystem services and goods on which people's livelihoods depend. These impacts will be intensively felt particularly in the Mediterranean coastal zone.

Although several regional and national initiatives and programmes in place are addressing mainly adaptation issues, there is no overall coordinated, coherent and responsive line of action at Euro-Mediterranean level encompassing jointly identified current and future needs.

Are Mediterranean countries ready to respond?

The capacity of Mediterranean countries to respond to climate variability and change threats is hampered by a number of factors, including: insufficient data and knowledge of the natural mechanisms and limited understanding of the interlinked issues, absence of scientifically-based background and assessment of the socio-economic aspects (costs, etc.) of climate change, lack of solid regional and national policies based on a consensus on policy options and response measures, etc.

It is therefore critically important that research advances our understanding of how climate variability and change will impact coastal communities, natural resources and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Mediterranean. It is equally important to ensure that scientific information, thus generated, be made accessible to decision makers, and that actions be taken to integrate them within the context of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as well as into current Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and land policies and practices, in order to improve sustainability in view of future climatic scenarios.



Particularly as it relates to the coastal zone, ICZM is a long established management approach in the Mediterranean. Its importance for the countries has been strengthened by the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol to the Barcelona Convention (March 2011). The Mediterranean ICZM Protocol is intended to reap

development benefits through implementation of a management approach that will facilitate sustainable economic growth; help conserve natural habitats and species; assist in controlling pollution of coastal waters; contribute to the more efficient use of coastal resources; help rehabilitate degraded resources; provide mechanism and tools for rational resource allocation based on appropriate valuation of ecosystem services; and help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate

The ICZM Protocol and Climate Variability & Change

The ICZM Protocol of the Barcelona Convention is the first regional ICZM legal instrument that deals extensively with the issue of climate change, both at the strategic level (by requesting countries to mainstream climate change issues into national ICZM strategies and plans) and local levels (by requesting countries to define, inter alia, the coastal setback zone).

variability and change.

2. Are there regional initiatives and programmes on Climate Variability and Change in the Mediterranean?

To address climate variability and change challenges in the Mediterranean, there is a wide range of on-going and planned institutional and operational instruments and tools, at regional (Mediterranean), sub-regional (EU, MENA, Balkans), national and transboundary levels. Still, the climate change adaptation agenda is

relatively recent and, in some cases, difficult to become fully understood and/or operational within the complex policy-making and implementation systems of the Mediterranean countries but also at regional and transboundary levels.

Is the Mediterranean well equipped to respond?

Several initiatives exist and actions advance while adaptation policies are under development at regional and national level. However, more coordination is needed both on policy making and operations, while national and local cross-sectoral and sectoral development plans have to further address climate change impacts including in the coastal areas

Related policy frameworks and initiatives at different levels include the EU Water Framework Directive (2002) and its related Directives

(Groundwater-2006, Floods-2007), the EU Strategy on Water Scarcity and Drought (2007), the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008), the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) and its Climate Change Window (2010), the EU supported 'Horizon 2020 Initiative' to de-pollute the Mediterranean, the Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI), the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), the draft UfM Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (2010), the Arab Water Security Strategy (2011), the UfM agenda on Climate Change launched with the UfM Ministerial Conference on Environment and Climate Change (2014) and on-going through the UfM Climate Change Expert Group, the 5+5 Initiative in the Western Mediterranean including its Water Strategy (2015), the draft MCSU UNEP/MAP Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2015), etc.

On the Programmes side, **the GEF UNEP/MAP Project on 'Integration of climatic variability and change into national strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean' (Climate Variability Project, 2013 to 2015, www.themedpartnership.org)** aimed to promote the use of ICZM in the participating countries as an effective tool to deal with the impacts of climate variability and change in coastal zones by mainstreaming them into the ICZM process. Specific objectives of the project were:

- To strengthen knowledge on regional climate variability and change and their impacts and define their specific characteristics in the Mediterranean region;



-To strengthen partnerships, improve capacity building and establish mechanisms for exchange of data and information for integration of climate variability and change into concrete ICZM policies, plans and programmes.

The Project was implemented by UNEP/MAP, Blue Plan, PAP RAC and GWP-Med. It produced a range of products in assistance to regional and national policy making and technical advancements.

The GWP Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP, 2012-2016, www.gwp.org/wacdep) aims to integrate water security and climate resilience in development planning processes, build climate resilience, and support countries to adapt to a new climate regime through increased investments in water security. The goal of the programme is to promote water as a key part of sustainable regional and national development and contribute to climate change adaptation for economic growth and human security. Currently, WACDEP is fully implemented in Africa by the GWP Regions in the continent in the framework of an in collaboration with the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), and is concretely expanding in more regions.

A range of other regional programmes are active in the region, including the EU ENPI Clima South Programme to Support Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in the southern part of the Region (2013-2016), a range of EU climate projects under the Framework Programme 7, the Multi-Donor World Bank Trust Fund for addressing climate change in the MENA, the GIZ/BMZ Programme on Developing Regional and National Capacities for Implementation of Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA (2011-2016), etc. UNDP is active with a range of national activities on the climate adaptation and mitigation agendas. Furthermore, UNECE, UNESCWA, EIB, Sida, AFD, the Italian Cooperation and others are active in the agenda.

A set of Climate Change financing instruments are available or upcoming, including the Green Climate Fund, Special Climate Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, Adaptation Fund, GEF including its Integrated Programme on Sustainable Cities and Taking Deforestation out of Global Commodity Supply Chains, etc. Some of these instruments are available for the Mediterranean including for addressing climate change impacts in the coastal areas.

On the side of the Barcelona Convention, and mandated by 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Marrakesh, 2009), the **draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework** was updated within the framework of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD) and will be presented for adoption at the 18th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Athens, February 2016). The overall objective of the Framework is to identify and develop a regional approach to climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean to increase the resilience of its marine and coastal ecosystems, infrastructure and communities to climate change.

Last but not least, the Sustainable Development Goals include climate-related targets and indicators while the COP 21 (Paris, December 2014) is expected to advance the international climate change agenda.

3. What is the role of Members of Parliaments in the agenda?

Members of Parliaments (MPs) are among the key actors in designing, promoting and deciding about integrated policies for sustainable development at country level. They represent the citizens, monitor the Government's performance, develop legislation and ratify environmental, water, land, energy and other laws, approve national and sectoral budgets as well as major infrastructure interventions including those that enable the State to put its development policies in force.

Climate variability and change as well as ICZM and IWRM are among areas of focus and interest of MPs. It is widely recognized that there are valuable experiences to be shared at regional level among MPs and with a



range of stakeholders (governments, civil society, users, local authorities, private sector, media, etc.), promoting dialogue and common understanding. Particularly in the light of the Arab Spring there is a strong call for more democracy, equity, transparency, accountability and enforcement of the rule of law. Poverty eradication, gender equality and youth empowerment are also central towards a more just society. To effectively deliver their roles, as relates to agendas that are critical for development and social equity, MPs need to be well informed, capacitated and constructively engaged.

Formal MP bodies function and address Mediterranean agendas including the Euro-Mediterranean / UfM Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, etc.

A light regional network of Parliamentarians, the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD¹), promotes dialogue, exchange of information and sharing of knowledge on sustainable development and water issues in the Region. Formed in the wake of the Johannesburg Summit, it operates with the technical and administrative assistance of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med). It regularly holds dialogue events. The informal status and light function of COMPSUD has proven effective in securing interest and participation of competent representatives even during times of political conflict and social turmoil in the Region.

¹ The Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD, <http://vimeo.com/63107210>, <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/articles.asp?cMC=5&cID=52>), formed in 2002, is an open, flexible and light structure, aiming to promote suitable mechanisms to support the dialogue among MPs (from EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries), politicians and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and the necessary socio-economic conditions for the sustainable development of the region. Today, COMPSUD counts more than 80 members from the Parliaments of 19 Mediterranean countries.



Agenda

Thursday, 5 November 2015

09:00-09:40 Opening Statements and Purpose of the Meeting

Introductory remarks by co-organisers and supporters of the Regional Workshop will provide the context, aims and modes of works.

Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, and Chairman, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development

Ms. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, Chair of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), former Chair of the Environment Committee and Water Courses Sub-Committee of the Hellenic Parliament

Mr. Gaetano Leone, Executive Secretary and Coordinator, UNEP/MAP

Mr. Steffen Cole Brandstrup Hansen, Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility Representative of the Ministry of Environment & Energy, Greece (tbc)

09:40-11:00 Session 1: Setting the framework of the meeting

Participants will be updated on the international climate change agenda and its reflections in the Mediterranean with particular emphasis on the coastal area. On the interventions part, MPs, Media and Civil Society Organisations are expected to contribute their knowledge, insights, and aspirations on the subjects addressed based on their regional and national experiences.

Chair: Mr. Moh Rejdali, Member of the Moroccan Parliament

Rapporteur: Ms Antonia Theodosiou, Federation of Environmental & Ecological Organisations of Cyprus (FEEO)

- Climate Change: facts with impacts on the Mediterranean
Prof. Michael Scoullos, Chairman of GWP-Med and MIO-ECSD

- Adapting to Climate Variability and Change: experiences from Mediterranean coastal areas
Ms. Daria Pohv Skugor, Senior Programme Officer, Priority Action Programme UNEP/MAP

Interventions by MPs and Stakeholders

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 Session 2: The GEF MAP/UNEP Climate Variability Project and the Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation

Participants will be informed on results and achievements of the GEF MAP/UNEP ClimaVar Project

Chair: Mr. Ali Laskri, Member of the Algerian Parliament

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed Tafraouti, Chief of Moroccan Network Media of Environment and Sustainable Development



- Presentation of the GEF UNEP/MAP Project “Integration of Climatic Variability and Change into National Strategies to implement the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean” (ClimVar & ICZM)

Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, Project Manager, MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM, UNEP/MAP

- Elements of the draft Regional Framework on Climate Change Adaptation and key findings of accompanying technical work

Mr. Tassos Krommydas, Expert, ClimVar & ICZM Project, UNEP/MAP

- Experiences and lessons learned from the ClimaVar Project

Mr. Antoine Lafitte, Program Manager on ICZM, Blue Plan, UNEP/MAP

Questions & Answers

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.15 Session 3: Regional Political Processes and Programmes on Climate Change Adaptation with emphasis on the Mediterranean Coastal Areas

Regional institutions will update on the political and technical processes they facilitate on climate change adaptation, possibly suggesting ways for further engagement of MPs, Media and Civil Society Organisations in these, as relevant. On the interventions part, participants are expected to contribute experiences from their engagement in these or other regional processes addressing climate change, to suggest ways to enhance synergies at regional level as well as ways to operationalize recommendations of these regional processes at country level.

Chair: Ms. Hara Kafantari, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Rapporteur: Ms. Dalia Abdelsalam Eldessouky, Al Ahram Newspaper, Egypt

- Union for the Mediterranean

Mr. Nicolas Debaisieux, Climate change advisor, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

- League of Arab States

Mr. Hammou Laamrani, Advisor, Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region, LAS/GIZ

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

Ms. Eleni Avlonitou, Member of the Hellenic Parliament

Interventions by MPs and Stakeholders

15:15 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30 Session 4: Regional Political Processes and Programmes on Climate Change Adaptation with emphasis on the Mediterranean Coastal Areas

Regional organisations will update on on-going and upcoming programmes and activities on climate change adaptation, possibly suggesting ways for further engagement of MPs, Media and Civil Society Organisations in these, as relevant. On the interventions part, participants are expected to suggest ways to operationalize such activities at country level and inform on other regional and national programmes and projects with linkages could be pursued.



Chair: Mr. Fathi Chamkhi, Member of the Tunisian Parliament

Rapporteur: Mr. Jeremie Fosse, President Eco-Union & Director Global Eco Forum

- Actions on Climate Change Adaptation by Mediterranean Civil Society

Mr. Emad Adly, Secretary General, Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

- The GWP-Med Water-Food-Energy Nexus Programme: towards Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation co-benefits

Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean

Interventions by MPs and Stakeholders

16:30 – 17:30 **Closed session of COMPSUD Members (by invitation only)**

18:30 **Busses depart from the Divani Caravel Hotel to the Institute Français de Grèce (31 Sina str.)**

19:00 – 21:00 **Round Table on ‘The Challenge of Adapting to Climate Change and COP 21’, co-organised with the Institute Français de Grèce and the Committee for the Study of Climate Change Impacts of the Bank of Greece. The Round Table will be moderated by Prof. Christos Zerefos, Member of the Athens Academy.**



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Panelists:

- Christophe Chantepy, Ambassador of France to Greece

- Yiannis Tsironis, Alternate Minister of Environment & Energy, Greece

- Michael Scoullou, Professor of Environmental Chemistry - University of Athens, Chairman of GWP-Med and MIO-ECSDE

- Pantelis Capros, Professor of Energy Economics - National Technical University of Athens

- Anastasios Xepapadeas, Professor of Economic Theory and Policy, Athens University of Economics

- Dominique Raynaud, directeur de recherche émérite au CNRS et membre du GIEC, laboratoire de glaciologie et de géophysique de l’environnement de Grenoble

- Vincent-Henri Peuch, directeur du service Copernicus de surveillance de l’atmosphère, ingénieur de recherche au Centre européen pour les prévisions météorologiques à moyen terme



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ΕΥΡΩΣΥΣΤΗΜΑ

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GRÈCE

21:30 **Dinner** (arranged at Kostis Palamas Building, corner of Sina street and Academias)

Friday, 6 November 2015

09:30-10:30 **Session 5: Investing in the future: the role of Education**

Presentation and facilitated interactive session for input to the Action Plan for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSESD)

Chair: Prof. Mohamed Ftouhi, Université Mohamed V – Souissi, President of Club Marocain pour l’Environnement et le Développement (CMED)



Rapporteur: Ms. Patricia Bonelli, Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES)

Reshaping Education for Sustainable Development: its contribution to Climate Change Adaptation efforts

- *Prof. Michael Scoullas, UNESCO Chair & Network on Sustainable Development Management and Education in the Mediterranean*

10:30-11:30 Session 6: The role of Parliamentarians in regional and national policy processes on climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean

Facilitated discussion among MPs and Stakeholders:

- *what is the role of Parliamentarians on Climate Change Adaptation?*
- *how can contributions and initiatives of MPs at national and regional level be enhanced?*
- *what technical assistance is needed to support MPs' role?*
- *how can other Stakeholders assist in these?*

Chair: Ms. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, COMPSUD

Rapporteur: Ms. Zouhour Himmich, Journalist, Morocco

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-12:30 Session 6 continued: The role of Parliamentarians in regional and national policy processes on climate change adaptation in the Mediterranean

Facilitated discussion among MPs and Stakeholders:

- *what is the role of Parliamentarians on Climate Change Adaptation?*
- *how can contributions and initiatives of MPs at national and regional level be enhanced?*
- *what technical assistance is needed to support MPs' role?*
- *how can other Stakeholders assist in these?*

12:30-13:00 Session 7: Conclusions and Next Steps

Chair: Ms. Dionysia Avgerinopoulou, COMPSUD

Synthesis of Sessions reports, *Prof. Michael Scoullas*

Concluding Remarks

- *Mr. Lorenzo Galbiati, Project Manager, MedPartnership and ClimVar & ICZM, MAP/UNEP*
- *Mr. Vangelis Constantianos, Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean*

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch