

# Climate action



UfM Secretariat at COP24 (Poland)

The Mediterranean region is one of the world's climate change hotspots where, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the **limit of a rise in temperature of 1.5°C set by the Paris Agreement is already being exceeded**.

Shared Mediterranean climate action is therefore crucial. Urgent policies are needed to mitigate the consequences of climate change and consider adaptation options. Yet currently, the lack of adequate information is delaying the process.

Aware of this challenge, the UfM supports a dedicated regional effort to gather existing scientific knowledge and provide a better understanding of the risks posed.

This year, a sectorial report on the **impact of climate change on tourism** was presented. It aims to support Southern UfM member states in addressing how climate change impacts the competitiveness and sustainability of tourist destinations.

Another important outcome this year was the workshop on **Climate Finance Needs and Access**, which was moderated by a representative of the UNFCCC Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Programme. The exchanges with UfM member state representatives resulted in concrete feedback on the climate financing challenges and needs of the region, which will help to enhance access to financial mechanisms.

## The UfM at the COP24

The UfM Secretariat participated in the **24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties** with the presentation of two studies and the organisation of three side events.

One of the side events provided the opportunity to present the first **preliminary assessment on the risks of climate change in the Mediterranean**. It revealed that the regional

increase in temperature will reach 2.2°C by 2040, possibly exceeding 3.8°C in some areas by 2100. The sea level has risen by approximately 3 mm a year over the past few decades. Freshwater resources are decreasing and demand for food is increasing, while crop, fish and livestock yields are in decline and ecosystems are increasingly impacted. With limited resources and social conflicts on the rise, **large-scale human migrations could be expected**.

The final assessment is being conducted in cooperation with the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC) and will be available beginning of 2020.

Parallel to this, a second study commissioned by the UfM analysed **international public climate finance** and revealed that the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region received around USD 8.3 billion in climate financing in 2016. This represents 13% of worldwide funding for climate action, showing that there are significant opportunities for enhanced and coordinated regional action.

Aware of the importance of giving a voice and involving younger generations in the global agenda, a third side-event was organised with the Mediterranean Youth Climate Network, which showcased youth-led initiatives and their key role in climate action (more information on p.14).

## CONNECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN WITH THE GLOBAL AGENDA

The COP22 granted observer status to the UfM in 2016. Since then, the UfM Secretariat has actively promoted the Mediterranean agenda within the UNFCCC process and involved UNFCCC experts in its activities.

In this spirit, an MoU, signed with the UNFCCC Secretariat on the margins of the COP24, expressed the willingness of both institutions to continue working together towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the Mediterranean region.

The UfM Secretariat facilitated contact between the UNFCCC Secretariat and several Mediterranean countries regarding their potential participation in the "Needs-Based Approach to Climate Finance" project. This project aims to help participants develop approaches to mobilising support, in order to implement the programmes required to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) goals set by the Paris Agreement.

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL MITIGATION, **THE REGIONAL INCREASE IN TEMPERATURE WILL REACH 2.2°C BY 2040, POSSIBLY EXCEEDING 3.8°C IN SOME REGIONS BY 2100<sup>1</sup>**

Source: Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change Network (MedECC)

**"We know that people, companies, national and local authorities in the Mediterranean have plenty of solutions to offer for a new, cleaner economy. We want to help promote them, by developing connections between those looking for solutions and those offering them."**

*Bertrand Piccard, Chairman of the Solar Impulse Foundation and partner of the UfM*

## EXPERTS' CORNER

Four studies were published by the UfM in 2018, offering valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for action related to climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

- [Climate Finance Study](#)
- [Improving Access to Climate Finance Flows](#)
- [Climate Change Impact on the Tourism Sector in the Southern Mediterranean](#)
- [Risks Associated with Climate Change in the Mediterranean Region](#)

[ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/info-center/publications/)

## ALSO ON THE AGENDA...

- The UfM Regional Climate Finance Committee
- The UfM Working Group on Environment and Climate Change
- The UfM and the OSCE for Climate Security
- The Engagement of Youth in Climate Action
- The UfM Role in the Cluster Med Climate Transparency Initiative

[ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/](http://ufmsecretariat.org/what-we-do/)



## The UfM Climate Week: coming together for climate action



Every year, the **UfM Climate Week** gathers a wide range of actors, from government representatives to civil society and scientific experts, to discuss topics related to climate action in the Mediterranean region.

