



MedCOP Climate 2023 - Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco, June 22-23 2023

From COP27 to COP28 : MEDCOP driving climate action in the Mediterranean at the local and regional levels

Meeting of Mediterranean territories for climate action

Hub 3: Sustainable Management of Water Resources - Concept Note

June 22, 2023 (Session 6: 14h30-15h15 GMT+1 and Session 8: 15h30-16h15)

(Co-organisers: by the Union for the Mediterranean and Plan Bleu, Regional Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan - UNEP/MAP)

In a global context characterized by the need to accelerate climate action in order to meet the objectives of mitigation, adaptation, and mobilization of financial resources, including for adaptation and loss and damages, an inclusive and integrated approach is more than necessary, especially with regards to the primary role played by local governments in facing these challenges. This situation is more difficult in the Mediterranean, where the climate is changing faster than global trends, both historically and according to climate model projections (MedECC, MAR1, 2020). To catalyze a Mediterranean integration capable of providing solutions and answers, the Mediterranean Climate House Foundation (*Maison Méditerranéenne du Climat* or MMC) and the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceïma Regional Council (*Région Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma* or RTTH) have decided to organize MedCOP Climate 2023, which focuses on driving climate action in the Mediterranean at the local and regional levels.

The Mediterranean region is known for its dry and arid climate, which makes water a scarce resource in a steadily increasing number of areas on all of its shores. The situation is rapidly deteriorating due to population growth, competition between sectors for water and natural resources and ecosystem degradation, while the manifold impacts of climate change are exacerbating this already critical situation. Sustainable management of water resources is therefore essential in this region to ensure the conservation and efficient use of this valuable resource and to secure the long-term availability of water for human and ecological needs, as well as food and environmental security. At the same time, the sustainable use of marine and coastal areas and the development of a blue economy balancing environmental, social and economic needs can provide numerous opportunities. Properly managed in an inclusive approach involving local stakeholders, the Mediterranean can also be seen as a resource for sustaining local economies and communities and creating jobs. Ultimately, our region is one of the planet's laboratories when it comes to testing humanity's collective capacity to restore the balance between its expanding needs and those of the planet and its non-human inhabitants.

In order to contribute to building and consolidating a Mediterranean dynamic to face these challenges, this third edition of the MedCOP will promote an integrated approach that empowers decentralized and concerted action to increase mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change. MedCOP Climate 3 is articulated around 8 thematic hubs that will tackle key issues, including :

- the regionalization of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action;
- the local dimension of SDGs, NDCs and NAPs;
- the territorial implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP);
- water security and the blue economy in the Mediterranean;
- deployment of the new urban agenda
- the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- the green energy transition ;
- nature-based solutions (Nbs).

Hub 3 will revolve around two sessions described in detail below which are co-organized by the Union for the Mediterranean and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan - UNEP/MAP.

Session 1: The WEFE Nexus and Integrated Coastal Zone Management: a new ambition for local authorities to ensure water resources and food security

(Session Co-leads: Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP and Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean)

The WEFE Nexus approach and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) can help local authorities to better manage water resources and ensure food security in Mediterranean coastal zones and hinterlands. Indeed, these approaches encourage integrated planning and territorial management based on the source-to-sea perspective and an appraisal of the multi-level and -scale interdependencies between water, energy, food, and ecosystems. Local authorities can mobilize them to develop plans and policies that address the needs and trade-offs between these sectors in a systemic manner, leading to sustainable and efficient management practices as well as resilient communities.

Moreover, the adoption of resource-efficient practices, such as water-efficient irrigation and renewable energy generation can improve the sustainability of food production while reducing anthropogenic pressures on natural resources. Indeed, applying water demand management and driving the diversification of water sources, such as rural and urban rainwater harvesting and treated wastewater reuse, can significantly bolster water security and food production. Regenerative agricultural practices, such as agroforestry, coupled with holistic landscape management and restoration are crucial means to improve soil health, food yields and quality while conserving the Mediterranean's unique biodiversity and ecosystems.

Both the WEFE Nexus and ICZM promote collaborative governance that engages stakeholders from different sectors and levels and promotes cooperation and coordination in decision-making. Local authorities can use this approach to engage with local communities, farmers, researchers and businesses to develop solutions that address the needs and trade-offs between water, energy, food, and ecosystems in coastal and rural areas.

Session Objectives

To set a new ambition for local authorities and communities to manage water resources and ensure food security. More specifically, it aims at taking stock of local initiatives associated with the WEFE Nexus and ICZM, highlighting innovative proposals to promote collaborative governance that engages local stakeholders from different sectors and promotes cooperation and coordination in decision-making at the level of the territories. The session also aims at putting local authorities in the driving seat to mobilize water financing strategically, since they are best placed to assess the best use of existing financial resources.

Questions for Panelists

- What are the roles of local actors in the WEFE approach and why are local actors key to enabling the WEFE Nexus and ICZM ?
- How to improve local governance to foster an integrated approach and empower local authorities (e.g. role of local planning, etc.)?
- What are the investments local actors should prioritize to increase the resilience of their territories, and which financial models or mechanisms should be put in place to allow them to implement these actions?
- How can Science-Policy Interface dialogues help progress local climate policies or local climate action?

Session Outputs

Conclusions of the panel will lead to concrete recommendations which will feed into the final MEDCOP declaration. They will include proposals to improve the local governance in managing their water resources and help local authorities to prioritize projects and identify innovative financing instruments and mechanisms to support the implementation of the WEFE Nexus.

Session 2: Source to Sea and the blue economy : Mediterranean marine and coastal areas as a resource for local inclusive, green and resilient development

Session Co-lead: United Cities and Local Governments

The Mediterranean region has significant potential for resilient blue economy development, including sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, maritime transport, and on and offshore renewable energy. Local governments can promote sustainable fisheries by implementing regulations that prevent overfishing and promoting sustainable fishing practices. They can also support small-scale fisheries and value-added fish products to increase local economic benefits. They can develop sustainable aquaculture practices, such as integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, to increase local food production and generate economic benefits. They can invest in renewable energy infrastructure to reduce energy costs and generate revenue. They can develop sustainable tourism infrastructure and provide training for tourism operators and invest in research and development to support the blue economy, such as improving renewable energy generation. Local governments can build local alliances and foster partnerships with businesses, civil society, and academia to create a collaborative and innovative environment for the blue economy. Empowering local actors will lead to the development of new products and services, the creation of thousands of jobs, new opportunities for economic growth and will increase the competitiveness of the region.

Session Objectives

The session's objective is to help transform the Mediterranean marine and coastal areas into a resource for local inclusive, green and resilient development. More specifically, it aims at sharing and bringing innovative ideas to build territorial resilience and consolidate a resilient and vibrant local

blue economy in all Mediterranean territories. It will help draw up an assessment of the actions carried out within the framework of territorial initiatives and identify new programs to advance the blue economy agenda. It will help identify mechanisms to empower local actors, including local government, civil society and private sector, and boost territorial cooperation around concrete blue economy projects through the provision of financial and technical tools. The session will explore innovative adaptation financing mechanisms including the issue of loss and damages.

Questions for panelists

- What actions and programs should be prioritized and implemented to promote the blue economy in the Mediterranean territories?
- What kind of financial model or mechanism to be scaled up or established would be best adapted to the needs of the territories and to empower local actors?
- How to consolidate a regional Mediterranean dynamic to promote blue economy and coastal management? With which regional actors and through which cooperation mechanisms (UfM, MMC, UCLG, etc.)?
- How can Science-Policy Interface dialogues help progress local climate policies or local climate action?

Session Outputs

Conclusions of the panel will lead to recommendations which will feed into the final MedCOP declaration. They will focus on concrete proposals to create a conducive environment to empower local authorities and local communities. The discussions will help identify and implement projects and financing mechanisms to develop a resilient and dynamic blue economy and create jobs.

Agenda HUB 3 -22 June, afternoon

Session 1 (14h30-15h15, Salle Plénière Kasbah)

Introduction 1 minute	Professor Khalid Tamsamani, Hub Coordinator and MMC Executive Board Member (Rabat)	Moderator: Michael Karner, Project Manager, Plan Bleu/RAC (UNEP/MAP) (Marseille)	
Opening Remarks 6 minutes	Almotaz Abadi, Deputy Secretary General, Water, Environment, Blue Economy (WEBE) Division, Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona) Duration: 3 minutes	Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP (Athens, Greece) - hybrid intervention Duration: 3 minutes	
Session 6 Panel 31 minutes	Panelist 1	Panelist 2	Panelist 3
1. How to improve local governance, in order to foster an integrated approach and empower local authorities (e.g. role of local planning, etc.)?	Ministry of Finance, Kingdom of Morocco (Rabat) Duration: 5 minutes	Mireia Boya Busquet, Director General, Environmental Quality and Climate Change, Government of Catalonia (Barcelona) <i>Zoom on the Catalan Strategy on Adaptation</i> Duration: 5 minutes	
2. What are the investments local actors should prioritize in order to increase the resilience of their territories, and which financial models or mechanisms should be put in place to allow them to implement these actions?	Matthew Mcluckie, Posaidon Capital, PAMEx Local Investment Finance Facility (PLIFF) (London) - hybrid intervention Duration: 3 minutes	Faraj Abdelmalek, General Director, National Institute of Fisheries Research (Casablanca) Duration: 3 minutes	Professor Maria Snoussi, Mohammed V University (Rabat) Duration: 3 minutes
3. What are the roles of local actors in the coastal zone with regards to ICZM and the WEF Nexus approach, and why are local actors key to enabling them?	Hassan Bahar, Director, Regional Environmental Directorate of the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima Region, Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (Tangier) Duration : 3 minutes	Ante Ivcevic, Program Officer, Priority Actions Program/RAC (UNEP/MAP) (Split) Duration: 3 minutes	Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (Athens) Duration: 3 minutes
4. How can Science-Policy Interface dialogues help progress local climate policies or local climate action?	Abir Ben Romdhane, Mediterranean Youth for Water Network – MedYWat (Tunis) Duration: 3 minutes		
Audience Q and A			

Session 2 (15h30-16h15-Salle Assilah)

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Professor Khalid Tamsamani, Hub Coordinator and MMC Executive Board Member (Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco)
Session Moderator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frédéric de Dinechin, Senior Policy Advisor, WEBE, Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona, Spain)
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rafik Belkorchi, Vice-Président du Conseil Régional Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceima ● Karim Amellal, Ambassador, Interministerial Delegate of the French Republic to the Mediterranean ● Ms Yosra Albakkar, Strategic Partnership, Senior Manager, South Asia and MENA, Pathfinder International ● Jean-Charles Orsucci, Mayor of Bonifacio, France ● Ms. Sofia Djohar, Associate Banker at the EBRD Casablanca ● Mr Jean Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, UGCL Africa ● Mr Ahmed El Bouari, Director Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Water and Forest, Morocco