

Press dossier

The Mediterranean Pavilion at COP29: A Hub for Urgent Climate Action and Innovative Solutions

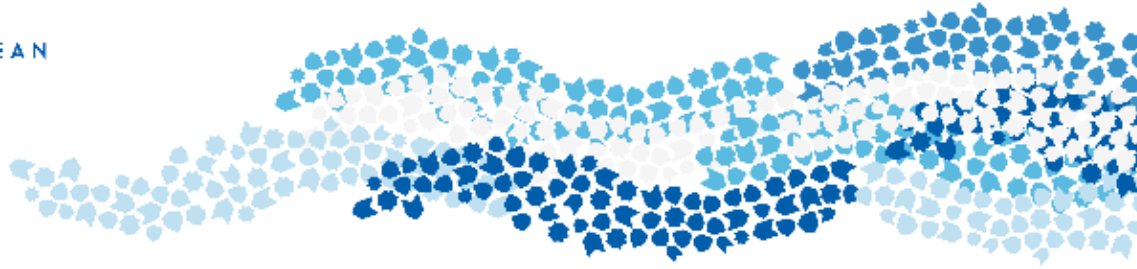
Baku, Azerbaijan - 12 to 22 November 2024

The Mediterranean Pavilion at COP29 aims to draw attention to the unique and urgent climate challenges in the Mediterranean region, an area that is warming 20% faster than the global average, making it the world's second-fastest-warming climate zone. This accelerated warming, linked with deep social and economic disparities, presents severe risks to regional stability. But the region is also a hub of emerging solutions as well as innovative approaches in public policy, science, civil society, and private sector initiatives that have the potential to scale globally.

Conceived as a gathering space for collaboration, the Mediterranean Pavilion will host high-profile events, talks, and meetings, emphasising the critical climate risks and highlighting groundbreaking projects developed in the region. Led by the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) (UfM), in partnership with the [United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan](#) (UNEP-MAP), the [PRIMA Foundation](#), and a coalition of major climate organisations, the Mediterranean Pavilion is a hub for exchanges on effective climate solutions tailored to the Mediterranean region's needs.

The Mediterranean Pavilion unites all sectors involved in climate action across the Mediterranean: public institutions, private enterprises, scientific communities, NGOs, financial entities, and policy leaders. The Mediterranean Pavilion is also guided by the knowledge of [MedECC](#), the independent network of Euro-Mediterranean climate and environmental scientists with over 600 scientists from 35 countries. MedECC, which published the first-ever Mediterranean climate assessment in 2020, will continue to provide evidence-based insights to inform the pavilion's activities.

The Mediterranean Pavilion is a call to action for collaborative climate solutions, embodying the joint efforts of regional actors committed to advancing a sustainable transition. Through shared knowledge, strong partnerships, and a unified vision, it aims to inspire and mobilise regional and global efforts to address the climate crisis.



Know the organisations involved

Organisers:

- [Union for the Mediterranean \(UfM\)](#)
- [United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan \(UNEP-MAP\), Plan Bleu and MedWaves](#)
- [Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Foundation \(PRIMA\)](#)

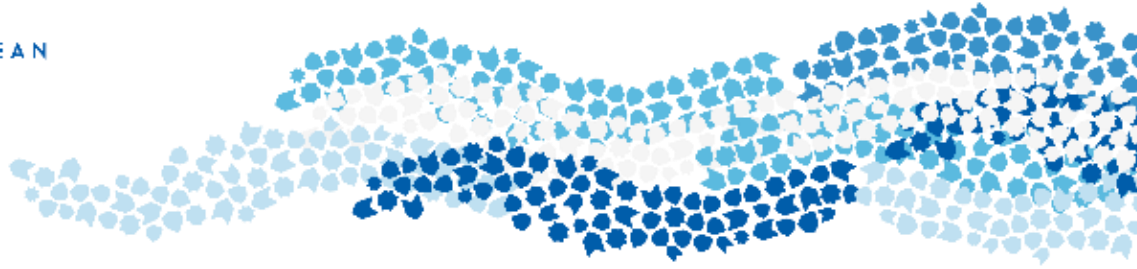
Partners:

- [Earthday Europe](#)
- [ECCO – Italian climate change think tank](#)
- [Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association \(EMEA\)](#)
- [Friedrich Naumann Foundation for freedom](#)
- [German Development Cooperation \(GIZ\)](#)
- [International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies \(CIHEAM\)](#)
- [Interreg MED Programme and UNIMED - Mediterranean Universities Union](#)
- [Sweden Sverige](#)
- [Rai Radio 1](#)

Scientific Council:

- [Mediterranean Experts Network on Climate and Environmental Change \(MedECC\)](#)

In response to the critical climate challenges in the region, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) supported the creation of MedECC in 2015 following a ministerial call for the establishment of an independent regional scientific network. With headquarters in Marseille hosted by Plan Bleu, one of the Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), MedECC continues to equip decision-makers and the public with the most up-to-date scientific insights on climate risks in the Mediterranean.



Personalities & experts

The following representatives and experts are among those who will take part in the pavilion's activities:

- Marija Vuckovic - Croatian Minister for Environmental Protection
- Dr. Muawieh Radaideh - Minister of Environment- Jordan
- Anthony Agotha - Special Envoy for Climate and Environment, European External Action Service
- Rim Ayadi - Founder and President of the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association - EMEA
- Marta Junquera - UNEP-MAP Regional Activity Center for Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production – MedWaves
- Mohamed Abdel Monem – MedECC expert and independent consultant on climate change and rural development
- Piero Lionello – MedECC expert and full professor of oceanography and atmospheric science at the University of Salento

Agenda highlights

A selection of panels that will be hosted by the Mediterranean Pavilion are listed below, with the full agenda of events [here](#).

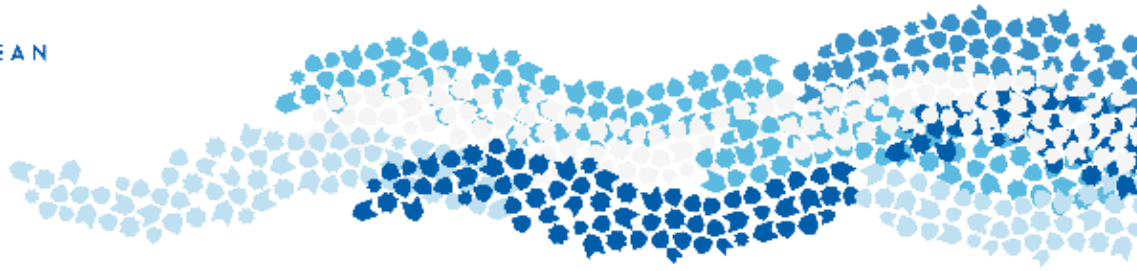
All events are listed in Baku local time and will be available via streaming [here](#).

- **The climate, peace and security nexus in the Mediterranean: connecting the dots**
In a world increasingly affected by conflict and climate change, it's crucial to address the interconnectedness of climate, energy, and security. The COP29 Climate Peace Initiative emphasises the urgent need to consider the "climate change, security, and peace nexus." This is particularly relevant for the Mediterranean region, where climate change exacerbates existing instabilities, potentially worsening crises and creating new ones. Building resilience and integrating climate considerations are essential for promoting security, stability, and development, as well as addressing food security and migration. A panel of experts will discuss these issues, offering insights and solutions.

Organisers: CIHEAM, ECCO, MedECC, UfM

Date: 15/11/2024

Time: 12:30 - 14:00



More info [here](#).

- **Nature Finance: Catalysing Green and Nature-Based Solutions while Addressing Nature-Negative Finance**

The growing recognition of the urgent need to address environmental degradation, climate change, and biodiversity loss has spurred interest in nature finance. Nature finance is the strategic mobilisation of capital toward projects and initiatives that preserve, restore, or sustainably manage ecosystems while addressing climate challenges. This event seeks to highlight the opportunities and challenges in nature finance, providing a platform for dialogue on how financial systems can be realigned to protect the planet while generating economic returns.

Organiser: Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Date: 15/11/2024

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

More info [here](#).

- **Powering the future: The Mediterranean's initiative towards 1TW renewable energy by 2030**

As the world grapples with the urgency of climate change, the Mediterranean region finds itself at a critical juncture, where both challenges and opportunities converge. This event aims to mobilise collective action towards achieving an ambitious target of 1 TW of renewable energy capacity in the Mediterranean by 2030. This goal is essential for enhancing energy security, fostering sustainable economic development, and forging meaningful partnerships between the Global North and Global South.

Organiser: ECCO

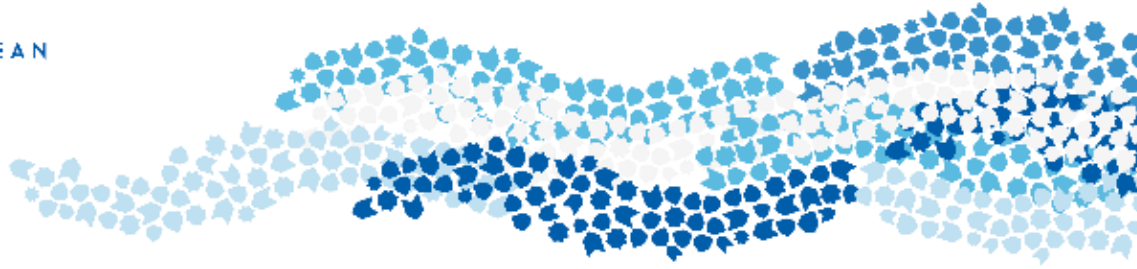
Date: 18/11/2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

More info [here](#).

- **Climate change and the WEF E nexus**

The newly published MedECC Special Report highlights the critical challenges climate change poses to the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events threaten water availability, agriculture, energy security, and ecosystems. The report emphasizes the need for



integrated management approaches to address these interconnected issues, promoting resilience and sustainability. The session aims to present the current scientific understanding of the WEFE nexus and its link to climate change, advocating for comprehensive policies over sectoral ones to achieve sustainable development and resilience in the region.

Organisers: MedECC and UfM

Date: 19/11/2024

Time: 11:00 - 12:00

More info [here](#).

- **Leading a New Era of Climate Action**

This high-level event with Australian and Maltese climate ministers will emphasise the crucial role of the authorities in driving effective climate action and uniting public and private sectors. Climate change poses a global emergency, threatening crops, water supplies, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and impacting the broader economy. The event aims to stress the importance of prioritizing climate action on national agendas and addressing the challenges governments face in adopting effective policies. By fostering collaboration among governments, civil society, academia, business, and industry, Climate Action Authorities can ensure coherent, holistic, and impactful climate governance.

Organiser: Malta

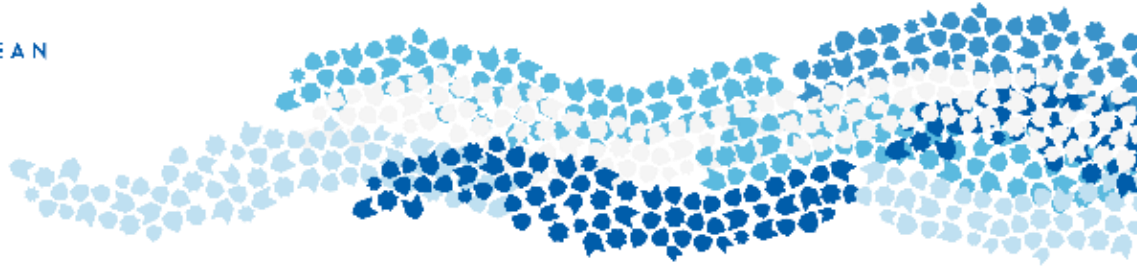
Date: 19/11/2024

Time: 12:30 - 13:30

More info [here](#).

Key data on climate change in the Mediterranean

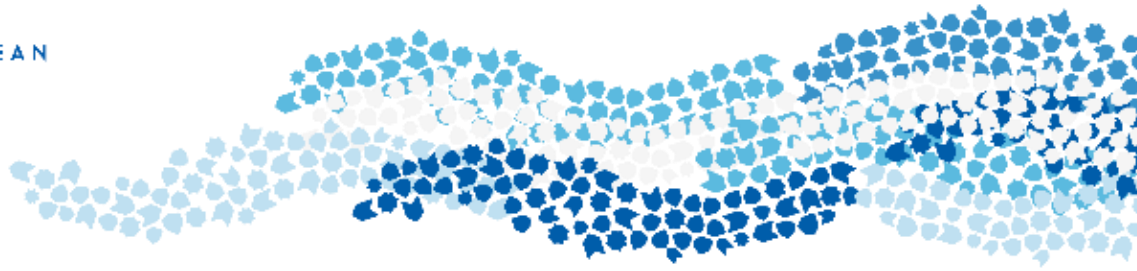
The Mediterranean region is warming at an alarming rate, 20% faster than the global average. Under current policies, temperatures in the region are expected to rise by 2.2°C by 2040, underscoring the urgency for immediate and sustained action. These findings come from the [First Mediterranean Assessment Report \(MAR1\)](#), published in November 2020 by MedECC. This comprehensive report synthesises the best available knowledge on climate and environmental change in the Mediterranean Basin, providing valuable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and citizens.



Accelerating climate change exacerbates existing environmental challenges in the Mediterranean, driven by factors such as population growth, pollution, unsustainable land use, and the invasion of non-native species. These changes disrupt both natural ecosystems and human livelihoods, with profound impacts across critical areas including water resources, ecosystems, food security, human health, and regional stability. In most of these domains, both present conditions and future projections reveal escalating risks.

- Sea surface temperatures in the Mediterranean are projected to rise by 1 to 4°C over the coming century, depending on global emissions levels. This warming, more severe than in other large bodies of water, poses serious threats to marine ecosystems, which are already vulnerable to overfishing, pollution, and acidification. Impacts include reduced fish stocks, declining biodiversity, and increased incidents of jellyfish blooms, algal proliferation, and mucilage accumulation.
- Land ecosystems also face significant challenges. In the northern Mediterranean, forest cover is expanding, often encroaching on agricultural and grazing lands. In the south, however, ecosystems are degraded by deforestation, overgrazing, and land fragmentation, with half of all wetlands lost or degrading over the past 40 years. Effective adaptation strategies will require water conservation, sustainable forestry practices, and efforts to preserve ecological connectivity.
- Moreover, agriculture, the region's largest water user, faces a growing need for irrigation, projected to increase by up to 18% by 2100. Adaptation measures could include improving water efficiency, adopting sustainable farming practices, and promoting the Mediterranean diet and local food production to reduce resource strain.
- The climate crisis also affects human health, with high temperatures and pollution posing risks for disadvantaged communities. Furthermore, extreme weather events threaten human security, particularly in coastal areas, where resource scarcity and environmental degradation may increase conflict and migration pressures.
- Additionally, rapid urbanization, especially along southern coastlines, adds to the strain, necessitating resilient urban planning to manage increasing heat stress and environmental change. Without adaptive measures, cities in the Mediterranean could face disproportionate climate impacts.

The Mediterranean also has substantial potential for mitigating climate change through an accelerated energy transition, phasing out fossil fuels and expanding renewable energy. This will demand comprehensive changes in energy policies and economic models across Mediterranean countries.



Media contacts

For more information and to request interviews:

Cristina Tomàs

Press Officer

cristina.tomas@ufmsecretariat.org

+34 691 519 634