

COP29 - UNFCCC

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

EVENT CONCEPT NOTE**Climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean**

21 November 2024

1. Objectives

The Mediterranean coastal zone is a hotspot for highly interconnected climate risks for the ecosystems and the societies due to a particular combination of multiple severe climate hazards, including rising temperatures, water scarcity, sea-level rise, and extreme weather events. Policies to manage coastal risks and adaptation strategies in the Mediterranean coastal zone are important to the whole region, as a third of the Mediterranean population lives close to the sea and depends on infrastructure and economic activities in its immediate vicinity. Thus, region-specific scientific knowledge is essential for stakeholders, governments, and citizens to make informed climate and environmental decisions and policies.

The session aims to provide a clear understanding of climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean region by highlighting the current scientific knowledge and how this science can be leveraged for policy development that prioritise resilience, sustainability, and community well-being. It will discuss adaptation efforts and the need to avoid some of the current measures that may lead to greater challenges in the future by increasing vulnerabilities. The event advocates the need to protect communities, minimise impacts on the natural environment and societies, and address ethical considerations important for socially-oriented adaptation policies.

Background:

The MedECC - Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change - is publishing the Summary for Policymakers of the Special Report Climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean basin, which assesses the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature on the multiple drivers of change affecting the Mediterranean Sea - climate, pollution, biologic and socio-economic processes, their evolution, impacts on ecosystems and people, the risks that are posed and solutions to reduce them, together with pathways for sustainable development. The Special Report outlines related risks, adaptation options, and addresses pathways for sustainable development in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Adaptation actions are presented, placing social and cultural values in the context of the region and its local traditions. The report considers the need to protect communities, minimise impacts on the natural environment, and address ethical considerations important for socially-oriented adaptation policies.

The Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change — MedECC — established in 2015 to support informed climate and environmental decisions, is an open, independent scientific network focused on assessing and synthesising available scientific knowledge on climate and environmental change and its associated risks in the Mediterranean basin. As a

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unique science-policy interface, MedECC provides essential, region-specific information to stakeholders, governments, and citizens, enabling them to make effective, knowledgeable decisions. The network has more than 300 active authors that contributed their expertise and time to MedECC assessments. MedECC benefits from the support of the main Mediterranean intergovernmental institutions of Union for the Mediterranean and UNEP/MAP and since 2018, Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center) has hosted the MedECC Scientific Secretariat as part of a partnership with the UfM.

2. Panel discussions / Event showflow

Opening remarks: Ms. **Anna Pirani**, **CMCC Foundation (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change)**, **MedECC Coordinating Lead Author and former MedECC Coordinator, member of the Italian delegation to the Climate Convention, Former Head of IPCC Technical Unit of Working Group I.**

Keynote presentation 1: Climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean
Mr. Piero LIONELLO, University of Salento, Italy; Co-coordinator of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks, Co-coordinator of MedECC

Keynote presentation 2: Management of coastal risk along the Mediterranean coast
Mr. Mohamed BDRABO, University of Alexandria, Egypt, Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks (online)

Keynote presentation 3: Sustainable development pathways in the Mediterranean:
Mr. Stefano MONCADA, University of Malta, Malta, Coordinating Lead Author the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks (online)

Keynote presentation 4: Insights from the Science-Policy Interfaces: Accelerating Coastal Adaptation and Climate Action
Ms. Daria POVH SKUGOR, Director of PAP/RAC, Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report
(*onsite*)

- **Q&A and Interactive Discussion**

Open the floor to questions from the audience and facilitate a discussion with panelists on key takeaways

- **Wrap Up by Piero Lionello**

Closing remarks summarising the main insights discussed during the event, encourage continued dialogue and collaboration and a clear call for climate action.

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3. Date and Venue

21 November 2024 | 11:00 – 12:00

The Mediterranean Pavilion, Blue Zone, F1B - COP 29

4. Agenda

Important to flag who will be online and/or using PPTs /Videos

| Time | |
|---------------|---|
| 11:00– 11:05 | Opening remarks Anna PIRANI, CMCC (Italy) |
| 11:05– 11:15 | Climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean Piero LIONELLO , University of Salento, Italy; Co-coordinator of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks, Co-coordinator of MedECC <i>(onsite)</i> |
| 11:15 – 11:25 | Management of coastal risk along the Mediterranean coast Mohamed BDRABO , University of Alexandria, Egypt, Coordinating Lead Author the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks |
| 11:25 – 11:35 | Sustainable development pathways in the Mediterranean Stefano MONCADA , University of Malta, Malta, Coordinating Lead Author the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks |
| 11:35 – 11:45 | Insights from the Science-Policy Interfaces: Accelerating Coastal Adaptation and Climate Action Daria Povh Skugor , Director of PAP/RAC, Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report <i>(onsite)</i> |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Q&A and Interactive Discussion and Wrap up |

5. Bios of speakers

Anna Pirani. CMCC Foundation (Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change), MedECC Coordinating Lead Author and former MedECC Coordinator, member of the Italian delegation to the Climate Convention IPCC Working Group I, Head of Italian Delegation

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Dr. Anna Pirani is a senior research associate of the CMCC research division “Risk assessment and adaptation strategies”. She is working on international, European, national and local climate risk assessment and climate policies, in particular to inform adaptation and build resilience. She is working on the assessment of climate risks at the regional scale, and development of a standardised yet flexible framework and toolbox for the Horizon Europe project “CLIMAtE risk and vulnerability Assessment framework and toolboX (CLIMAAX). She worked on the first European climate risk assessment (EUCRA), in particular the development and coordination of storylines on climate risks that require European-scale coordination and management. Anna is a member of the Italian delegation of the Ministry for the environment and energy security (MASE) for UNFCCC negotiations providing scientific and technical support for climate policy development and negotiations on topics that include climate change, impacts and risk, adaptation, migration, mitigation ambition and net zero emissions targets. She is EU lead negotiator on UNFCCC Research and Systematic Observations. Anna also provides support for G20 and G7 negotiations, recently working on the development and implementation of the G7 legacy initiative of the Italian presidency, the Adaptation Accelerator Hub.

Speaker 1/Piero LIONELLO. University of Salento, Italy; Coordinator of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks. Coordinator of MedECC. MedClivar

Piero Lionello is full professor of Oceanography and Atmospheric Science at the University of Salento, Lecce (Italy). He is a climatologist with a focus on the climate of the Mediterranean Region, its past and future evolution, impacts of climate change and extreme events. He is co-coordinator of MedECC and Report Coordinator of the Special report on climate and environmental coastal risks in the Mediterranean. He is the chair of the MedCLIVAR (Mediterranean CLImate VARiability) network and has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of ECMWF (European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecast). He has been a leading author of the IPCC WG2-AR6 chapters devoted to "Europe" and "The Mediterranean". Piero Lionello is author of more than 150 publications in international scientific journals on modelling, prediction of coastal waves and floods; air-sea interaction, evolution and impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean region, climate dynamics at global scale, synoptic climatology and extreme events.

Speaker 2/ Mohamed BDRABO, University of Alexandria, Egypt; Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks.

Mohamed Abdrabo works as an Emeritus professor of environmental economics and the Director of Alexandria Research Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change (ARCA) at Alexandria University. He is a Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special report on coastal risks, bringing his expertise in the field of economics and socioeconomics of climate change and the environment. He was a lead author and member of the Summary for Policy Makers core team for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). He worked as a consultant to several environment-related research projects in the region and authored several books on environmental and climate change economics in Arabic. His research interest is in the field of economics and socioeconomics of climate change and the environment. He received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Liverpool, UK.

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Speaker 3/ Stefano MONCADA, University of Malta - Islands and Small States Institute, Malta; Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks.

Prof. Stefano Moncada, Ph.D. in Economics, lectures and conducts research in the areas of **development economics, climate change, and islands studies**. Prior to join academia, Stefano worked in the Italian Parliament as policy analyst. Stefano is the Director of the Islands and Small States Institute, Associate Professor of the University of Malta, part of the Malta National Climate Action Council, of the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change (MedECC), and acts as expert reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Speaker 4/ Daria Povh Skugor. Director of PAP/RAC, Croatia; Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on Coastal Risks.

Daria Povh Škugor is the Director of PAP/RAC of UNEP/MAP. For over two decades she has been leading and participating in the numerous coastal management and coastal adaptation projects, from the Mediterranean to city level. Using integrated, systemic approach she gained on-the-ground experience of policy-science-community collaboration. Her main interest lies in SDG 17 – building partnerships for action. She is advocating for climate action and sustainability as a presenter, guest lecturer and a keynote speaker. She holds a MSc in Coastal zone management (Ulster) and BSc in Economy of coastal zones (Split). She is a Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on coastal risks.