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11-22 November 2024

Session title: Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin, new MedECC Special Report

Lead organisations: Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC) and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Session coordinator: Mohamed ABDEL MONEM: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE), Egypt / MedECC monemun123@gmail.com and/or Kasia Marini, MedECC/Plan Bleu, marini@medecc.org

Short description:

The main objective of this event is the presentation of the newly published Special Report “Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin” by the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC). The presentation of the report will be followed by the discussion on the integration of the WEFE concept in the policy-making.

Background:

Climate change presents multiple challenges to the water, energy, food, and ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean region. Rising temperatures, evolving precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events threaten water availability, agricultural productivity, energy security, and ecosystem health across the region. The new MedECC Special Report addresses the critical need to understand and manage the intricate links between climate change and the WEFE nexus in the Mediterranean. By examining how climate stressors impact each component of this nexus and how they interrelate, it offers a comprehensive overview of the current challenges while highlighting solutions to enhance resilience and sustainability. It emphasises the importance of integrated management approaches that account for the interdependencies within the WEFE nexus to develop adaptive strategies for mitigating climate impacts. The report was drafted by voluntary scientists within the network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC), and coordinated by Philippe Drobinski (France), Marta G. Rivera Ferre (Spain) and Mohamed Abdel Monem (Egypt). It engages policymakers, representing an invaluable contribution to the science-policy dialogue in the Mediterranean and to support evidence-based decision-making.



To support informed climate and environmental decisions, the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change — **MedECC** — was established in 2015. MedECC 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 unique science-policy interface, MedECC provides essential, region-specific information to stakeholders, governments, and citizens, enabling them to make effective, informed decisions. The network counts more than 300 active authors that contributed their expertise and time to MedECC assessments. MedECC benefits from the support of several organisations, including the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), and Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Center) that has hosted the MedECC Scientific Secretariat since 2018 as part of a partnership with the UfM.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an inter-governmental organisation that promotes cooperation and dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region through initiatives addressing the three strategic objectives of regional stability, human development and regional economic integration. The UfM is preparing a regional strategy on the WEFE in a Source to Sea continuum which is a joint effort led by the UfM, the EU and UNEP MAP with the technical support of Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) [GWP-Med](#), Water and Environment Support (WES) and PRIMA. This strategy has been broadly consulted and will be endorsed by UfM Member States to enable the mainstreaming of system-thinking and the application of the WEFE Nexus approach in the Mediterranean within improved governance structures at different levels.

Objectives of the session

- Present the current state of scientific knowledge on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the in the Mediterranean region, and its connection with climate change
- Underline the importance of the comprehensive and integrated WEFE nexus approach, rather than sectoral policies, to achieve sustainable development and resilience in the face of evolving environmental and socio-economic dynamics.

Day and time slot: 19 November 2024 (“Water and Agriculture” Thematic Day), 11h30 to 12h30 local time in Azerbaijan, UTC+2.

Session format – In person panellist, hybrid transmission (preferably 3 persons on site, 1 online)



Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker
5 minutes	Welcoming remarks BY UFM	Moderator: TBC
15 minutes	Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin, new MedECC Special Report	Mohamed ABDEL MONEM: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE), Egypt / co-coordinator Co-coordinator of the MedECC Special Report on the WEFE nexus (<i>onsite</i>)
10 minutes	WEFE Nexus Strategic Framework for the Mediterranean	... UfM (<i>onsite</i>) Prof. Michael Scoullou, Ph.D, D.Sc., is the Chairperson of MIO-ECSDE and GWP-Med. He is the founder of the Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Oceanography Laboratory of the University of Athens (UoA). THE WEFE STRATEGY IN A SOURCE TO SEA CONTINUUM, CO-LED BY EU - UNEP MAP - UFM WITH THE SUPPORT OF PRIMA-WES-GWP MED
10 minutes	Contributions of the WEFE nexus to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Assem ABU HATAB: The Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; Arish University, Egypt / Coordinating Lead Author of the MedECC Special Report on the nexus (<i>onsite</i>)
15 minutes	Q&A	Q&A session with audience participation
5 minutes	Final remarks (ON LINE)	Frédéric DE DINECHIN: Senior Policy Advisor, UfM Water Environment and Blue Economy Division

Speakers info

Mohamed ABDEL MONEM

Dr Mohamed Abdel Monem has worked since 2016, as Senior Advisor for land and climate change at Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (RNE). He is former staff of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), worked as Regional Team Leader for Ecosystem Management in Nairobi, Kenya for 11 years from 2003 to 2014. He served as Natural Resources Management Specialist with ICARDA for 7 years. He worked as a soil scientist with the University of Nebraska in Morocco for 4 years from 1986 to 1990. He is professor of Soils at the Egyptian Atomic Energy Authority. Dr Abdel Monem has a PhD in Agronomy from Colorado State University, USA. He co-coordinated the MedECC Special Report on "Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food -



Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin” together with Philippe Drobinski (France) and Marta G. Rivera Ferre (Spain).

Assem ABU HATAB

Dr Assem Abu Hatab is an applied economist with broad empirical interests and focus on the economics and sustainable management of food systems in low- and middle-income countries. Based in Uppsala, Sweden, Abu Hatab works as a professor and a senior Development Economist at the Nordic Africa Institute and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He is a Coordinating Lead Author (CLA) of chapter 4 “Contributions of the WEFE nexus to sustainability” of the MedECC Special Report on “Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin”.

Prof. Michael Scoullos, Ph.D, D.Sc.

Chairperson of MIO-ECSDE*¹ and GWP-Med*². He is the founder of the Environmental Chemistry and Chemical Oceanography Laboratory of the University of Athens (UoA). Prof. Scoullos has specialized also in Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Management, and is deeply involved in the promotion of the WEFE Nexus*³. He has contributed significantly to bridging the research - policy gap in the areas of environment and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region. He holds the relevant UNESCO Chair at the UoA, and he is the Team Leader of the EU Funded Water and Environment Support (WES) Project for the non-EU Mediterranean countries. He was the Scientific Coordinator of the 9th Our Ocean Conference, Athens, Greece, April, 2024. He represented for 25 years the European Parliament in the Board and Bureau of the European Environment Agency. He works for many years on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). He is the Secretary of the MCESD*⁴ and Coordinator of MEdIES*⁵. In addition, Prof. Scoullos, chairs the Greek National Committee of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and is also actively involved in Hydrodiplomacy. Among his International Distinctions, he is Honorary Citizen of the City of Paris, awarded by the Academy of Athens, Holder of the National Order of Cedar of Lebanon, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, etc. He has published over 500 articles, books, etc. and organized or chaired a very large number of international conferences.

Frédéric DE DINECHIN

Currently Senior Policy Advisor at the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS), he assists the Deputy Secretary General for water, environment and blue economy by assessing latest policy developments in these areas and by developing appropriate regional cooperation strategies and dialogue processes. He coordinates UfM efforts to prepare a regional strategy on the “WEFE nexus in a Mediterranean source to sea continuum”. He joined the UfMS in 2023 after working for more than on development policies in international financial institutions including the World Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank.