"CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: THE MEDITERRANEAN CASE" SIDE EVENT

CONCEPT NOTE

19 November 2026, 17:45–18:45, Mediterranean Pavillion

Invasive alien species constitute one of the major threats to biodiversity, ecosystems and human well-being, with their impacts becoming increasingly significant under changing climatic conditions. In the Mediterranean region, the effects of climate change, together with increasing maritime transport, the opening and expansion of the Suez Canal, and pressures on native species, have contributed to the introduction and spread of non-native and invasive marine species.

This side event will bring together representatives from academia, international organizations, fisheries cooperatives and relevant public institutions to discuss the relationship between climate change and invasive alien species, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean Sea and Türkiye. The event will provide a platform to share regional experiences, discuss the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive alien species, and highlight approaches for preventing their introduction and spread. Particular attention will be given to maritime pathways, including ballast water and vessel-related transport, the changing distribution of invasive alien species under climate change, impacts on marine ecosystems and fisheries, and legal and institutional approaches to prevention and management.

The side event aims to examine the links between climate change and the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in the Mediterranean, discuss their ecological, economic and social impacts, particularly on marine biodiversity and fisheries, and share scientific, legal and institutional perspectives and Türkiye's recent experience. It will also facilitate the exchange of regional practices on prevention, early detection and management, while strengthening cooperation among relevant institutions, international organizations, academia and fisheries stakeholders. The side event is expected to raise awareness of the links between climate change and invasive alien species in the Mediterranean, highlight their ecological, economic and socio-economic impacts, and share Türkiye's recent legal, institutional and practical developments. It will also facilitate the exchange of regional experiences on prevention, early detection, rapid response and management, while strengthening regional cooperation to address maritime pathways and the transboundary nature of invasive alien species, contributing to biodiversity conservation, climate action and the sustainable management of Mediterranean marine ecosystems. Potential Partners include DEHUKAM, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, relevant academic and scientific institutions on the national level and IUCN, CC/RAC, relevant academic and scientific institutions at the international level.

Agenda (60 minutes)

Duration	Panel	Speaker
0–2 min	Opening Remarks and Introduction	Dr. Mustafa Başkara (Moderator, DEHUKAM)
2–12 min	Climate Change and the Changing Distribution of Invasive Alien Species in the Mediterranean	Prof. Dr. Sadullah Levent Kuzu, CC/RAC
12-22 min	Biodiversity Conservation and Invasive Alien Species: An International Perspective	Yaprak Arda, International Union for Conservation of Nature Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation
22–32 min	Türkiye's Legal and Institutional Framework for the Prevention and Management of Invasive Alien Species	Prof. Süheyla Suzan Gökalp, Ankara Hacı Bayram University Faculty of Law
32-42 min	National Conservation Strategies and Management of Invasive Alien Species	Dr. Ilgın Akpınar Ergün, General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks
42-52 min	Invasive Species in the Mediterranean: Impacts, Challenges and Responses	Assoc. Prof. Mahir Kanyılmaz, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture
52–60 min	Panel Discussion and Exchange of Views and Closing Remarks	All Panelists – Moderated by DEHUKAM