MEDITERRANEAN PAVILION

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

9-20 November 2026

PARTNER EVENTS AT THE MEDITERRANEAN PAVILION

Partner events are expected to go beyond institutional promotion or visibility objectives. Events are expected to be informative and showcase concrete, implementation-oriented initiatives that deliver value added to participants and the public, namely through the demonstrations of practical solutions, project implementation outcomes, replicable approaches and measurable results.

Events should address challenges and opportunities from a Mediterranean and regional perspective, fostering cross-border dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge exchange, rather than focusing solely on national experiences or priorities.

Each session is expected to be conducted in English, follow a 60-minute format; feature a maximum of 5 Speakers including the moderator; and ensure a balanced and inclusive line-up of speakers with due consideration to gender balance.

Proposed events should clearly articulate their contribution to the thematic priorities of COP31 and identify the expected outcomes, partnerships, or knowledge products that will result from the discussion.

Code	Title	Session Description and Format (e.g., Panel debate outlining the Speakers line-up; partnership announcement, MoU signature, etc.)	Rationale and Alignment with COP31 thematic priorities	Lead Coordinator	Partner or other institutions mobilized	Expected Deliverables / Outputs (e.g. report or publication launch, partnership announced, joint initiative, policy recommendations, etc.)
1	**Beyond 1.5°C: What Changes and How Do We Adapt? Lessons from the Mediterranean**	**Format:** 60-minute panel in English, 5 speakers including the moderator. A framing talk on why the planet keeps warming and where heat and carbon go (mostly into	UNEP's September 2026 report on limiting overshoot finds that 1.5°C is likely to be crossed within a few years and that even optimistic current pledges peak at around 1.8°C. Above 1.5°C there is no safe level: sea-	**CC/RAC** Climate Change Regional Activity Centre of UNEP/MAP	UNESCO-IHP, PAP/RAC, Istanbul Uni, Marine Sciences,	Key outcomes: 1. Key biophysical and socio-economic limits in the Mediterranean, and the thresholds that would trigger transformational adaptation beyond 1.5°C.

		the ocean) is followed by four expert contributions: what changes in the Mediterranean marine environment above 1.5°C, which no-regret adaptation moves to take now on the coast, and a concrete case on coastal aquifers, each built around a Mediterranean example. Where the limits lie that would trigger a shift to transformational adaptation is drawn out across the talks and the discussion. **Agenda** 0–4 min: Opening on what the UNEP overshoot report says, one audience question (Moderator). 4–14 min: Why warming continues and what drives it, how much of the heat and of human CO_2 emissions the ocean takes up, and what this means for the	level rise, heat, wildfires and ecosystem loss intensify, and some losses are irreversible even if temperatures later decline. The session therefore speaks directly to COP31's focus on adaptation and resilience and its implementation, on science-informed action in light of the 1.5°C limit and overshoot, and on equity and support for the most exposed regions. Adaptation must become transformational: flexible, continually revised, linked to mitigation and careful to avoid maladaptation. The ocean is where this plays out first: it takes up more than 90% of the excess heat and, over the past decade, about 29% of human CO_2 emissions (IGCC; Global Carbon Budget 2025), and the Mediterranean Sea has been warming faster than the global ocean average. The session therefore starts from what drives continued warming and where heat and carbon go, and then turns to			2. No-regret adaptation moves, illustrated by the coastal aquifer case, and ways to avoid maladaptation across north-south capacities. 3. Policy recommendations for the COP31 adaptation discussions and for UNEP/MAP processes. 4. The partners' intention to follow up jointly, e.g. on monitoring adaptation limits in the Mediterranean. Three take-aways presented at the close.

		Mediterranean (Levent Kuzu). 14–22 min: What changes in the Mediterranean marine environment above 1.5°C: warming, marine heatwaves, acidification and ecosystems, which impacts are irreversible and where the thresholds lie (Nazli Demirel). 22–30 min: No-regret adaptation moves on the coast and how to avoid maladaptation, with a Mediterranean example (Marko Prem). 30–38 min: Concrete case on coastal aquifers: a strategic water buffer in drought, groundwater flows that support coastal ecosystems, and where limits such as seawater intrusion appear (Jose Luis Martin). 38–54 min: Moderated discussion: which actions must be front-loaded,	what can be done in the marine and coastal environment. The Mediterranean is a recognised climate hotspot, where heat, sea-level rise and water stress are already visible and where the capacities of northern and southern shores differ widely. Coastal aquifers offer a concrete example: sustainable management can strengthen adaptation to the combined pressures of rising sea temperatures and water scarcity, safeguarding a strategic buffer for water supply during drought periods and sustaining groundwater flows that support fragile coastal ecosystems, while also showing where limits lie, such as seawater intrusion. It is a practical test case for regional, cross-border lessons that other hotspots can reuse, rather than a national perspective.			

		and how north and south shores share the burden. 54–60 min: Closing remarks and three key takeaways from the discussion. **Speakers** Ozlem Orme (f), Moderator, CC/RAC Levent Kuzu (m), CC/RAC: drivers of continued warming, ocean uptake of heat and carbon Nazli Demirel (f), Istanbul Uni. Marine Sciences: change in the Mediterranean marine environment Marko Prem (m), PAP/RAC: no-regret coastal moves Jose Luis Martin (m), UNESCO-IHP: coastal aquifers case				

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