

Stakeholder involvement in the management of water resources

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**UfM Water Expert Group
5th Meeting**

23-24 November 2015, Luxembourg



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

MIO-ECSDE | At a glance

MIO-ECSDE, is a Federation of 128 Mediterranean NGOs working in the fields of Environment and Development.



Our mission is to:

- protect the **Natural Environment** and **Cultural Heritage** and
- promote **Sustainable Development** in a peaceful Mediterranean by bringing together the efforts of environmental and developmental NGOs.

Key areas of work & main lines of activity:

Resources &
Waste

Climate Change

Nature &
Biodiversity

Health &
Environment

- ✓ Monitoring and influencing EU and regional Mediterranean policies and bodies
- ✓ Drafting, promoting and presenting common NGO positions
- ✓ Raising public awareness, promoting participation and building consensus
- ✓ Capacity building of specific audiences
- ✓ Networking, International Collaborations & Partnerships
- ✓ Facilitating Mediterranean stakeholder networks
- ✓ Scientific research

MIO-ECSDE | A network of networks

MIO-ECSDE facilitates four other networks of major Mediterranean stakeholders who play a key role in addressing the region's environmental and sustainable development challenges:

- ***Educators*** through MEdIES (Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability) (4,500 +)
- ***Members of Parliament*** through COMPSUD (Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development) (85)
- ***Journalists*** through COMJESD (Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development) (65)
- ***Universities*** through the Network of Mediterranean Universities for Sustainable Development, focusing on Education for Sustainable Development (20)

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The added value of involving NGOs and other water related regional stakeholders

NGOs, within the wider civil society sector, play an important role in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development



Practices and tools applied to facilitate & enhance stakeholder participation in regional and sub-regional processes



Stakeholder participation in technical/expert working groups

Example: MIO-ECSDE's contribution to the *Drin Dialogue*



- Supporting the dialogue at regional level (politically, technically, through communication/ awareness raising actions...);

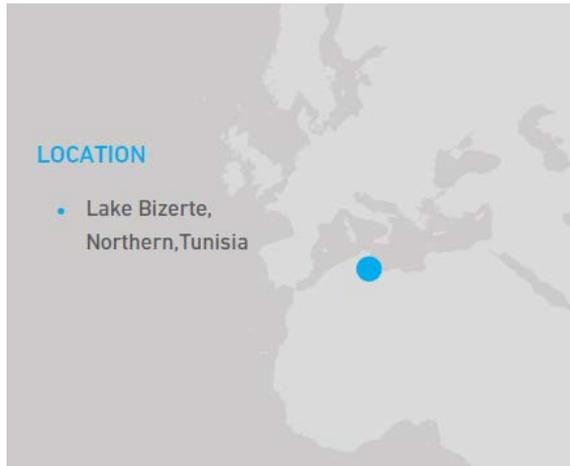


- Contributing in establishing a common understanding and shared vision via the coordinated involvement of stakeholders, and particularly NGOs, in the “Drin Dialogue”;



- Enhancing the ability and capacity of its member and collaborating NGOs and other stakeholders in order to act in an effective and constructive way.

Example: MIO-ECSDE's contribution to the *Lake Bizerte Charter*



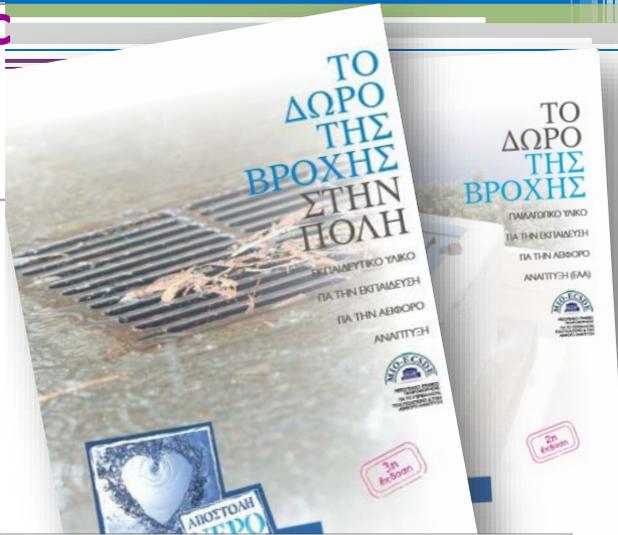
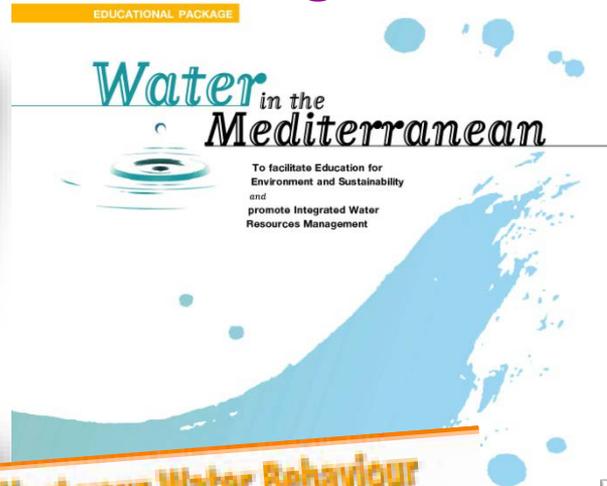
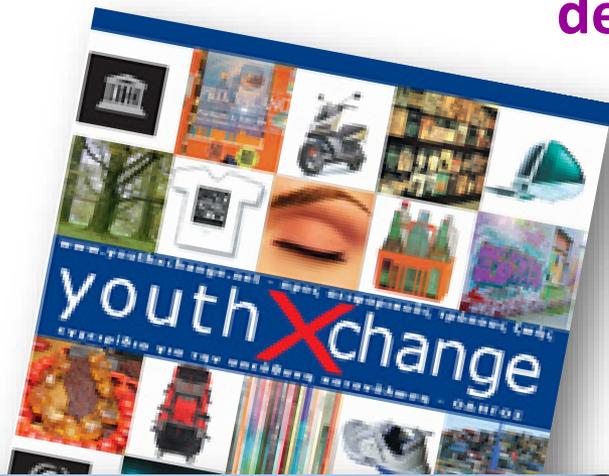
- ✓ Lake Bizerte is a complex coastal hydrological system, connected to both the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Ichkeul.
- ✓ It is a major hot spot of Tunisia characterized by major industrial pollution and pressures from many other activities (agriculture, urban, transport, etc.)
- ✓ An EU funded Horizon 2020 CB/MEP workshop took place in Lake Bizerte (2012) to facilitate practitioners to overcome the above mentioned difficulties.
- ✓ MIO-ECSDE coordinated a very vivid and interactive consultation among approx. 60 participants from major national, regional and local authorities and of all categories of stakeholders. Through the consultation, the “Lake Bizerte Charter” for the sustainable future of the Lake was agreed by consensus.
- ✓ Now the development of an Action Plan is underway, including voluntary commitments of the various stakeholders.

The project became a UfM flagship project also because of the exemplary dialogue set in place with local actors.

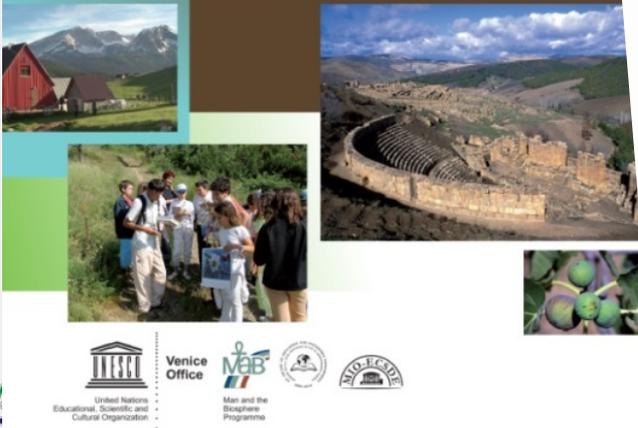
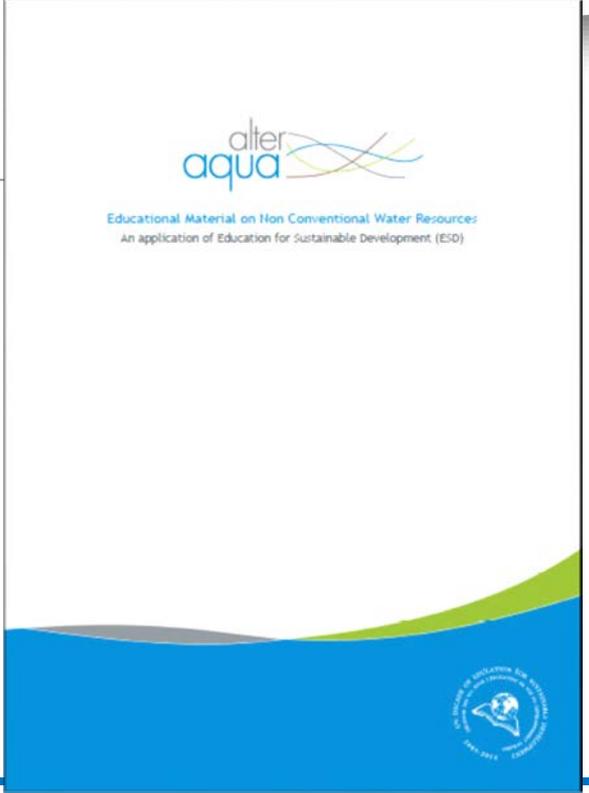
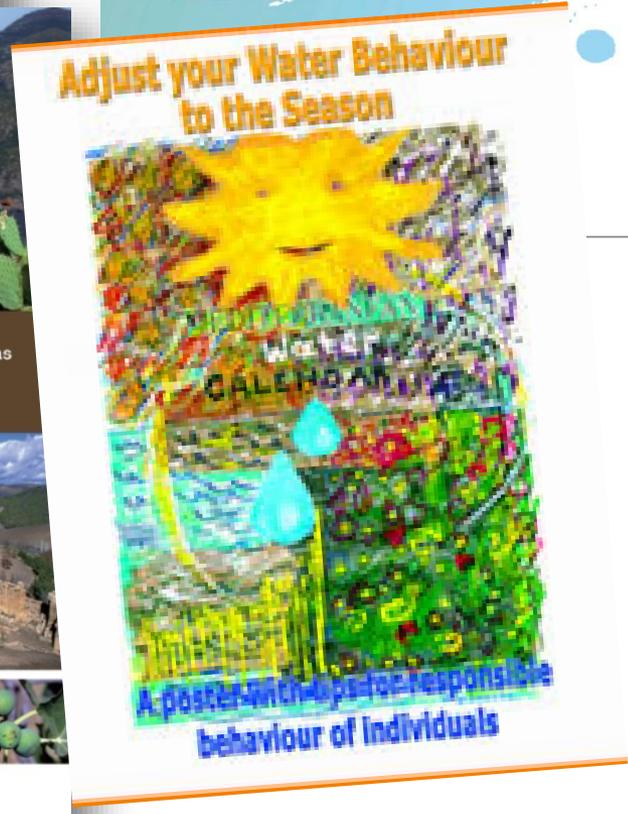
Example: Blue Green Med-CS

- ✓ A three-year UfM labeled regional project that aims to Network Civil Society in the Mediterranean region through water and environment issues
- ✓ Pilot target countries: Albania, Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia
- ✓ Promoters: MIO-ECSDE, RAED, MEDWET, IUCN-Med, IME and WWF MEDPO
- ✓ Main components are: capacity building, establishing participatory processes, networking, small grants programme
- ✓ The project thus far does not have fresh funding. But the promoters are putting at full disposal their networks and broad range of activities.
- ✓ There is associated financing from:
 - two small grants projects of the project promoters, namely (1) IUCN Small Grants (estimated: 160,000) and (2) WWF/MEDWET (estimated: 200,000).
 - the capacity building activities taking place under the H2020/SWIM project during 2015 (and hopefully soon under the new SWIM/H2020 Support Mechanism 2016-2018).
- ✓ Operational agreement with the UNDP Small Grants Programme is also underway.

Publications & campaigns on non-conventional water resources, water demand management, etc



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Stakeholders and the Mediterranean Water agenda

Active contribution from the EuroMed Partnership to the UfM



- 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (Dead Sea, Jordan, December 2008)



- WEGs 1, 2, 3, 4



- Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM)



- 4th Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water (April 2010, Barcelona).



- countless projects (large and small scale; regional to local), campaigns, advocacy,

Lessons learned so far...

- Need to **engage** stakeholders throughout the process from the planning to the implementation phase.
- In order to ensure a meaningful, coordinated and effective participation in the transboundary water resources management cycle, there is a need to **enhance their abilities and capacities** to act throughout these processes.
- Considerable amount of time and resources are needed in order to create an atmosphere of **cooperation and trust** but the investment definitely pays back!
- In order to keep stakeholders motivated and engaged in the process, opportunities should be sought to **jointly develop concrete outputs**.
- **Collaboration and exchange of experiences** among NGOs at national and sub-regional level can help to effectively replicate successful approaches.



Proposed next steps

WEG Role and Tasks:	MIO-ECSDE contribution
1: Primarily focus on SWM	
2: Enhance cooperation among the UfMS, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations	
3: Indicate and address relevant community priorities and emerging issues (from grassroots to regional level) including on SDGs	
4: Meaningfully cross-link with other relevant regional processes, strategies and projects (MSSD, MSED, Arab Water Security Strategy, the new SWIM-H2020 Support Mechanism,)	
5: Harmonise efforts on relevant SDG implementation in the Mediterranean	
6: Ensure the visibility of progress and outputs of the group but also of WEG members achievements and good practices	
7: Remain an open and inclusive body	

We welcome the re-launching of the regular regional dialogue on water!

Thank you!

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