

Technical Webinar
on
Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus in Practice – Technical Solutions in the Mediterranean:
Experience and Opportunities

Tuesday, 21 July 2020
13:30-15:00 CEST, on-line

BACKGROUND

The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WEFE) Nexus approach provides an important framework for promoting a coherent, holistic and integrated implementation of the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given the interdependencies among these sectors.

In the Mediterranean region, and particularly in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), stress on natural resources is increasing due to a variety of factors – demographic changes, improved living standards, socio-political transformations, climate change impacts – that affect all productive sectors. Among the resulting challenges, the energy costs for water production and distribution steadily increase while environmental status remains challenging.

Policy reforms, improved operations and technical innovations have sought to increase efficiency in the use of natural resources, particularly in the agricultural and food production systems. However, historically the water, energy, food and ecosystems sectors have been managed separately, with little or no inter-sectoral interaction and coordination. Cross-sectorial considerations of and cooperation on WEFE interlinkages is yet to be developed and demand integrated action. Increasing unemployment in the region, especially among youth and women, further aggravated in the post-COVID-19 context, presents a timely need and opportunity to showcase solutions with tangible impact on sustainability and concrete income generation opportunities.

Nexus solutions include a variety of technical interventions that benefit at least two of the four WEFE Nexus sectors while ensuring positive outcomes for all sectors. These include a range of technical applications to improve management of water resources, improve use efficiency, increase crop productivity (per drop and per kWh) or mobilise alternative sources of water to increase availability. These applications involve small to medium scale interventions at the local level, or larger scale, multi-purpose infrastructures, like multi-purpose dams and wastewater treatment plants with resource recovery. They can offer multiple sustainability and socio-economic benefits in more than one sector.

THE WEBINAR

The objectives of the Webinar are to

- Share case studies and tangible examples of WEFE Nexus technical solutions applied in the Mediterranean region, with emphasis in the MENA.
- Share lessons learnt and create a common understanding of challenges and opportunities in applying WEFE Nexus technical solutions
- Discuss the enabling environment to apply WEFE Nexus technical solutions

Moreover, the Webinar will assist with advocating policy recommendations and highlighting operational examples to be implemented in the Mediterranean, as part of the regional trajectory for achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6 through the implementation of the UfM Water Policy Framework of Actions 2030 and with due consideration to the recovery response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Webinar will capitalise on the conclusions of the Online Consultation Workshop on *UfM Water Agenda and Financial Strategy in view of SDG6 and the Green Deal: Policy Actions, Economic Responses, and Ways Forward in the post-COVID 19 context* that was held on 9-10 June 2020.

The Webinar is open to interested participants from a range of stakeholders.

The Webinar is organised by the Global Water Partnership–Mediterranean (GWP-Med), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM), in the framework of the “Making Water Cooperation happen in the Mediterranean” Project, aka Water Matchmaker Project, supported by Sida. It operationally links with and contributes to the GEF UNEP/MAP MedProgramme ‘Child 2.2’ Project on WEFE Nexus.

AGENDA (90 Minutes)

- *Welcome* – Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director for Water, UfM (3 minutes)
- *WEFE Nexus Technical Solutions and Experiences in the Mediterranean* – Konstantina Toli, Theme Leader, GWP-Med (15 minutes)
- *Experience from WEFE Nexus Assessment in the North West Saharan Aquifer System* – Annukka Lipponen, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE (12 minutes)
- *WEFE Nexus Experience in MENA*
 - Mr. Omar Abu Eid, Energy, Environment and Climate Change Programme Manager at the EU delegation to Jordan (10 minutes)
 - Mr. Ali Hayajneh, Programme Manager, Water & Climate Change, IUCN ROWA (10 minutes)
 - Mr. Amgad Elmahdi, Director of MENA Region, IWMI (10 minutes)
- Discussion, Q&A (25 minutes)
- Closing and Next Steps – (5 minutes)

HOW TO ATTEND

The webinar will be conducted in English and is free and open to everyone. To attend the webinar kindly **register [here](#)**. The link to the online platform will be provided after registration. We recommend you check your time zone [here](#).

Feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues.

For more information kindly contact the [GWP-Med Secretariat](#).