



Using system thinking to enhance Water Quality, Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum – The MedProgramme

5 February 2024, 11:30-13:00



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention

Mediterranean Water Forum 2024 Side Event: “Using system thinking to enhance Water Quality, Sustainability and Climate Resilience in the Mediterranean source-to-sea continuum – The MedProgramme”

Brief Description

MedProgramme promotes the integration between Water (fresh and marine), economies and productive sectors, Land-use, Land-sea interactions and climate change along the Source to Sea continuum.

And this is done through a set of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-level systemic planning approaches: from Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), to Integrated Management Planning (IMP), the Water, Energy, Food, Ecosystems NEXUS approach, and the Conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources. The side-event will explore how the GEF programmatic approach is declined in the Mediterranean for the first time ever in the Water sector.

Concept Note

The Mediterranean Sea Programme (MedProgramme): Enhancing Environmental Security (GEF ID 9607) is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) regional Multi Focal Area Programmatic Approach, implemented in Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) is the leading executing Agency; the GEF Implementing Agencies are UNEP and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the executing partners are UNESCO/IHP, European Investment Bank (EIB), IUCN Med, GWP Med, WWF Med, Plan Bleu, PAP/RAC, SCP/RAC and SPA/RAC.

The Programme aims to accelerate the Implementation of agreed-upon priority actions to reduce the major transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas while strengthening climate resilience and water security and improving the health and livelihoods of coastal populations.

Water Management is the “pivotal” core theme of the MedProgramme as all its eight Child Projects include activities directly or indirectly impacting on the water sector and use it as a “fulcrum” for integrating and interlinking with other sectors.

The three Child Projects of the Chemical and Waste Focal Area are striving towards the decrease of pollution of fresh and marine waters and, consequently, the improvement of the coastal and marine ecosystems and the health of people living in the Mediterranean region through the improvement of waste water treatment facilities and the reduction of nutrients and old and new land-based pollutants in discharges and run-offs. The three International Waters Child Project (ICZM, NEXUS/Source2Sea, Coastal Aquifers, Climate Change) are working towards the promotion of improved water and wastewater management practices either at the level of water basins or at the level of the coastal zone, bringing together all involved societal and economic actors to reduce conflicts in the access to water resources and unsustainable exploitation patterns and improving the quality and quantity of available freshwater to the basin and coastal communities.

MedProgramme water related project are also strongly considering the important impacts that Climate change is having on Mediterranean water resources, either on the surface or on groundwater supply for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses. Integrated management plans consider the increased frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as floods and droughts, and their impacts on water bodies, aquifers

and related ecosystems. Coastal plans are considering potential increased levels of flooding, accelerated erosion, degradation of coastal ecosystems, and seawater intrusion into freshwater.

International Waters projects also focus on the negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem productivity of unsustainable water management practices such as water pollution and degradation, water withdrawals and the re-routing of inflows.

Together with land use, waters (fresh water and marine water) are the main carrier of the land and sea interaction and processes which mostly happen in the Coastal Zone and in the Near Shore, and the potential negative impacts of this interaction on coastal and marine ecosystems are often triggered by water, land use and pollution management practices implemented all along the watershed. Therefore, the activities of all MedProgramme Child Projects have an impact on land and sea interaction and processes all along the Source-to-Sea continuum.

This side events will update on Implementation progress on all aspects mentioned above and the following discussion is aimed at providing suggestions for the elaboration of the next phase of GEF funded Programmes and projects in the Mediterranean on the theme of which will be centered on the theme of Water Security.

Draft Agenda

- Opening and introduction to the MedProgramme and its Child Projects, Mohamad Kayyal, MedProgramme Coordinator
- The NEXUS and the Source-to-Sea approaches in the MedProgramme, from practice to policy, Dimitris Faloutsos, Deputy Regional Coordinator, GWP-Med
- Financing Advanced Environmental Technologies in the Mediterranean Sea Region for Water Systems and Clean Coasts, Olivia Becher, EBRD ENVITECC Operation Lead
- MedProgramme's support to integrated water management across economic sectors, societies, territories (source to sea) in Lebanon, Eng. Mona Fakhri, Director of Water, Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water
- MedProgramme's support to integrated water management across economic sectors, societies, territories (source to sea) in Morocco, Mr. Hicham Bouziane, Director of Planning and Regional Development, Regional Council of Tangier Tetouan Al Hoceima - Coordinator, Local Services Energy Climate project
- MedProgramme's support to integrated water management across economic sectors, societies, territories (source to sea) in Tunisia, Mrs. Sabria Bnoui, Director of International Cooperation, Tunisian Ministry of the Environment (TBC)
- Towards the next phase of GEF funded Water Initiatives in the Mediterranean, Panel Discussion